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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Regular Departments:

Affairs of Wool and Sheep.....	11
Around the Range Country.....	16
Sheep Affairs in Australia.....	18
Letter from a Shepherd to His Pal.....	34
The Wool Sack.....	35
Range and Market Trade in Lambs.....	38

Special Articles:

Forest Grazing Appeal Board Renders Decision.....	12
In Memoriam—L. L. Heller.....	12
Colorado Legislature Considering Prior Use Bill.....	13
Cooperative Wool Sellers in Session.....	13
Studies of the Rate of Wool Growth.....	14
The Season's Rainfall.....	15
"Face Covering" in Popular Breeds of Sheep.....	19
Squeals for a Change.....	21
West Texas.....	22
Colorado Organizes for Wool Financ- ing.....	22
Ranch Land Values, Loan Statements, and Budgets.....	23
The Demand for 1927 Feeder Lambs.....	25
Prospects on Oregon Ranges.....	28
Financing the Marketing of Wool.....	29
New Mexico Convention of Wool Grow- ers, Cattlemen, and Legislators.....	31
Lincoln County (Wyo.) Wool Growers' Convention.....	32
Rambouillet Advanced Registration.....	33
Meeting of American and Delaine Merino Record Assn.	33
Licensed Wool Warehouses.....	37
Central Wool Pool Favored.....	37
Predatory Animal Work in Utah during Winter Months.....	37
California Lambs.....	40
Lamb Feeders Lose.....	40
Los Angeles Wool Trades Association Formed.....	42
Western Live-stock Men Conserve Wild Life.....	43

Affairs of Wool and Sheep

The Season:

In general the winter conditions in the range country have been favorable. Weather in early lambing sections has been more acceptable than it was for feed-lot operations. Winter appears to have broken early but it is still some distance to the usual time of going to the spring ranges. Moisture supply for most early feed areas is assured. The ewes cannot be expected to yield as large a crop of lambs as was secured one year ago but interest is being centered on conditions and prospects in the markets, especially in view of active dealings in wool.

Lambs:

Strong demand and reduced arrivals at the markets have brought the turn in prices that many feeders hoped to see early in February. Prices of the coming weeks must chiefly be based on fed lambs from the 1926 crop and will not directly indicate summer values, though sustained demand for the product of the feed lots should suggest an appreciative attitude on the part of consumers when shipments of California and southern milk lambs start in. In this issue Mr. Poole gives the best forecast possible in this season in respect to demand for feeders. As usual he will continue to give our readers the substance of opinion and gossip at the big markets where prices are discussed, predicted and made.

Wool:

Again the wool market developed the unexpected,—larger and earlier contracting of partly grown wools. In no other country is pre-shearing contracting carried on in an extensive way. The extent of the contracting is discussed in this issue's regular report of Boston developments and discussions.

Reports have been common concerning dealers' losses on last year's pre-shearing contracts, but the same firms are operating and with evidences of ample financial support. There can be little doubt that

the differences between prices received by growers and paid by mills for last year's wools was sufficient to pay expenses and carrying costs and allow a profit as well. It still is possible very quickly to enumerate the years in which growers have outwitted or outlucked the professional wool operators.

As usual in spring months, values are being set in the growing territory. This year they again have been placed by growers at a point that represents but a part of the benefit that could be obtained from the import duty. Unintelligent competition in selling and disorderly insistence on immediate cashing in are still largely characteristic of growers' procedure. But methods of orderly sale are becoming safer and better understood and will continue to be more largely patronized. The chief hindrance exists in the fact of such large volumes of wool having been placed on the market at prices materially below replacement costs which permit dealers' profits when resold at prices below those ruling for imported stocks. Foreign markets have advanced while Boston quotations are unchanged under an improved goods trade. As said, the prices have been established by growers, without grounds for pride in their accomplishment.

Land Values:

Professor Potter's discussion of land values, printed in this issue, is enlightening and instructive. There is a danger, as Professor Potter points out, that banks and stockmen may go to extremes in readjustment of the prices of grazing lands to accord with their earning power. Sooner or later, and in every case, this adjustment must be made. In part the result can be reached by better breeding and management of live stock to yield more dollars of product from the same number of acres now utilized, but such advance should be a reward of efficiency rather than a counterbalancing of a

business mistake. There are no good grounds for expecting materially higher selling prices or lower production costs for live stock. Lands not now yielding adequate returns on the figures at which they are inventoried, assessed, or loaned upon are too high. When and how they shall come down is to be determined by those who hold the titles,—and the assessors. Sound business practices require the change.

FOREST GRAZING APPEAL BOARD RENDERS DECISION

Announcement regarding handling of grazing appeals was made about one year ago by the Washington office of the U. S. Forest Service. According to the announcement then made the Secretary of Agriculture had approved the new regulation under which local boards of appeal would be organized for reviewing decisions made by forest supervisors when such review was requested by permittees or parties interested or affected.

Only a few of the boards contemplated under the new regulation have been organized. In most sections of the country stockmen were not inclined to look with much favor upon an appeals board of three men, one member of which, under the regulation, would necessarily be the supervisor whose action was appealed against. The Secretary's regulation also provided that the supervisor must act as chairman of the appeals board.

One of the few appeals boards that was organized has just considered a case which is of interest in itself and also because of its method of procedure under the requirements of the new regulations. It cannot be said that this initial case is likely to render more popular the plan of handling appeals as it has been set up by the forest officials.

The meeting of the combined boards of appeals of the Bridger and Wyoming national forests, which are located in western Wyoming, was called to consider the question of allowing the running of sheep under permits heretofore held by cattlemen. Several years ago agreement was entered into in this region under

which certain portions of the two forests mentioned would be reserved exclusively for cattle. Since that time the number of permitted cattle has declined from 15,000 to about 10,000 head and the agreement against admission of sheep has been continued in operation. Some of the cattle permittees who were parties to the original agreement have purchased sheep or contemplate doing so, and had asked to be given allotments for their bands in substitution of their previous share in the cattle permit which included a large number of operators whose cattle ran at large upon the common range allotted to the group.

A preliminary conference with forest officials of the district and Washington office had held at Salt Lake in January. At that time it was agreed that arguments should be presented in briefs. This was done at Kemmerer, Wyoming on March 2. The brief for those wishing to run sheep was submitted by Attorney T. S. Taliaferro, Jr. representing the Sublette County Wool Growers Association. The cattlemen of the county who were opposed to the change were represented by Attorney H. A. Hopkins, who said: "if the Forest Service permits sheep to go on or near the cattle range of the cattlemen of Sublette County, it is simply inviting murder, turmoil, fights, continual friction and conflict; it has always been that way, and it always will be that way and human nature has never been greatly changed or repealed since the beginning of the world."

The Isaac-Walton League of America was represented by the head of one of the Wyoming chapters, who argued at length against the dangers of injuring game and scenic resources of the forest region through grazing of sheep.

The board which consisted of the joint representatives of the two forests was made up of J. D. Noblitt, Cokeville and J. Thompson, Rock Springs, representing sheepmen and T. O. O'Neal, Big Piney, and John Lindford, Afton, representing the cattlemen. C. E. Favre who is supervisor of both forests acted as chairman of the board.

It was not made clear in the proceedings whether the case was actually in the form of an appeal from a decision rendered by

the Supervisor. It rather appeared that the Forest Service was desirous of having the board make the initial ruling in the case. The attorney for the cattle interests stated that his clients expected to continue the case and did not consider themselves bound to accept an unfavorable decision by the board, and would if necessary, carry the case to the district office or to the Washington officials.

It was announced on March 5 that the decision of the board had been rendered in favor of the claims of the cattle interests and that the request for changing cattle permits to sheep permits would be denied. The Wool Grower has not been advised as to how the members of the board voted or as to whether the applicants for sheep permits expect to continue the case.

In Memoriam

L. L. Heller

Mr. Lewis L. Heller, assistant secretary of the National Wool Growers Association during 1919 and 1920, died in Chicago on February 23, 1927. At the time of his death, Mr. Heller was agricultural agent for Cook County, Illinois.

Mr. Heller came to the National Association just after the close of the World War, in which he served as a lieutenant. Before enlisting for service, he was connected with the Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington, D. C., where he devoted most of his time to work on wool and sheep breeding. It was on account of this peculiar knowledge and experience that Mr. Heller was asked by the National Wool Growers Association in 1919 to take charge of its special endeavor to increase the use of lamb. While his efforts along this line were confined mainly to the Middle West, the bulletin, "Whetting Uncle Sam's Appetite for Lamb," which he prepared in cooperation with W. C. Coffey, eastern vice-president of the association, received a nation-wide circulation, and the numerous requests that are still received for it are proof of its value and attractiveness. Many of the readers of the National Wool Grower are likewise familiar with Mr. Heller's interesting articles that were published while he was assistant-secretary of the association. In addition to those who knew him only through his work, Mr. Heller made many real friends among western sheepmen who will learn with deep regret of his passing.

COLORADO LEGISLATURE CONSIDERING PRIOR USE BILL

Continued unsatisfactory conditions in the range cattle business and the desire of many cattle owners to engage in sheep raising is causing discussion in many sections. In western Colorado many stockmen have changed to the raising of sheep, but in spite of the removal of large numbers of cattle from the public range the remaining owners are resisting the coming of sheep onto the government lands heretofore used by cattlemen. 'Prior use' legislation in the form of House Bill 85, has been introduced in the Colorado legislature by E. C. Johnson, making it a misdemeanor to graze sheep upon any land previously or usually occupied by cattle. Violations would call for fines up to \$1,000 or imprisonment up to six months and each day's grazing would constitute a separate offense.

A protest against this bill has been issued by the officers of the Rio Blanco Wool Growers Association at Meeker, Colorado. The officers are: James Monaghan, president, E. H. Sexson, secretary-treasurer, Chas. Auckland, vice-president, and Alex Urie, S. C. Jones, H. P. Ottosen, members of the executive committee.

In the resolution of protest which is printed below it appears that any probable definition of 'priority' in this connection might mean the exclusion of cattle:

The Rio Blanco Wool Growers Association wish to register a protest against H. B. No. 85 entitled "A bill for an act relating to live stock and regulation of the Public range and providing penalties for violation thereof." Every member of our association is a citizen of the United States, a resident of Rio Blanco County, a ranch and live-stock owner in this community, and a voter and tax-payer in this district.

We protest against the passage of this bill for the following reasons:

1. We believe that it is unjust class legislation, confiscatory and not reciprocal in its effect and operation.

2. We believe that it would exterminate the sheep industry in this county and that this extermination of the industry would work great hardships on the entire community, reducing the value of all ranch property and depriving the banks and business houses of Meeker of their main activities. We believe that any such upsetting of the business and financial activities of this community would be detrimental to the cattle and all other agricultural pursuits of this county.

3. The 1927 tax assessment rolls show that half the assessed value on live stock of this county comes from sheep. We believe that as property owners assuming this proportion of

the tax burden of this county we are entitled to an equal right on the public domain with any other class of live stock.

4. We believe that every ranchman is entitled to the liberty of engaging in whatever business or occupation he desires. If he has been engaged in cattle business we believe he has a right to change to sheep. If he is engaged in the sheep business we believe he has a right to engage in the cattle business.

5. We believe that this bill fixing the industry of the future on the status of industries of the past is unprogressive, unAmerican, and uncomplimentary to the vision of any man supporting it.

6. At least 90 per cent of the cattle have vanished from our winter ranges. This has not been due to the encroachment of sheep. We see no reason why the sheep which have taken possession of these vacated ranges which are now established as theirs should be expelled from them.

7. This bill leaves the determination of the prior use of the range to the state courts. We believe that such determination of priority would result in endless and expensive adjudication. Ouray, chief of the Utes, was a large sheep owner. In what is now Rio Blanco County the Indians grazed sheep before the first white settlers were allowed on the reservation. After the federal government opened the White River Reservation the Indians contin-

ued to graze their sheep on the water shed of White River. Forty years ago white ranchmen were engaged in the sheep business in Rio Blanco County. They continued to graze their sheep here until they were illegally driven out in the eighties and the early nineties. We doubt if there is any grazing land in this district which has not been grazed by sheep prior to cattle. We protest at the expense of being compelled to cite these instances in the state court and being made to hire lawyers to give orations on the definition of this word "Priority."

8. Kit Carson, trail blazer, scout, buffalo hunter, premier of our pioneers and patron saint of the state of Colorado, commemorated in marble in our state capitol, dared Mexican, Spaniard and Indian to introduce sheep on ranges hitherto new to them. We protest against being legislated out of this our birth right.

9. We believe that a plebiscite of this county today would be overwhelmingly against H. B. No. 85, and will watch the course of this bill with care. We are pledged to do everything in our power to defeat any legislator who has not kept step with his constituents and thinks Rio Blanco County wants this measure.

10. We believe that this bill defeats its avowed purpose as it is unquestionably detrimental to the public peace, health and safety of our community.

Co-operative Wool Sellers in Session

A meeting of representatives of twenty-nine grower controlled and cooperative wool selling associations was held in Washington, D. C. on February 11, under a call issued by the Secretary of Agriculture. This was the first of a series of meetings to be held by the department with various farmers' marketing associations.

Secretary Jardine welcomed the delegates and spoke briefly upon the government's undertakings in the promotion and encouragement of cooperative action in the marketing of agricultural commodities. The set up of the Department of Agriculture was explained to the representatives by Mr. Lloyd S. Tenny, chairman of the Bureau of Agriculture Economics which covers general research, regulatory and service undertakings. Included in the various phases of wool marketing the different services of the government were discussed at considerable length. Mr. Chris L. Christensen in charge of the Division of Cooperative Marketing was in charge of the meeting under Mr. Lloyd S. Tenny, chairman of the bureau. Investigation and research work in the establishment of grades was explained

fully to the delegates. The method of statistical and historical research work, together with the distribution of news items relative to stocks and market conditions and their effect on wool prices received considerable discussion. The "Agriculture Outlook" came in for much criticism with regard to price predictions, the West generally agreeing that the facts only should be stated and that trend of market prices should be left to be analysed by the parties to whom the report was sent, as the prediction of prices generally has not been beneficial. Some of the eastern states were desirous of having a continuation of price prediction and in some states there was a division of opinion.

The United States Warehouse Act and the Federal Intermediate Bank were discussed as part of the necessary machinery in the carrying out of more orderly marketing, and the general opinion was that sufficient machinery was in effect, both as to warehousing and finances, to market wool properly, and that the only thing that was necessary was further education of the producer and co-ordination of the agencies now in existence. A vast differ-

ence was found in the conditions in the eastern and central states as compared with the territory and range states in the size of clips, condition of wool, and its preparation and selling. The ideas of the various groups were presented to the department. The department has assembled this data and has secured the services of Mr. J. F. Walker, who is leaving to conduct a study in Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, and perhaps other countries, with regard to the marketing of wool. The department's extended plan of research will include the collection and analysis of data on the business set-up of wool cooperative organizations over the country, a study of membership problems, studies to measure the benefits of cooperative marketing of wool and of the demand for different types and qualities of wool. The delegates to the conference asked the department for the fullest information obtainable on the domestic and world situation on wool, promotion of the United States wool grades, and the extension of market information.

The names of the delegates, together with their respective organizations follows: H. B. Embach, Arizona Wool Growers Association; J. F. Wilson, California Wool Growers; H. L. Garrigus, Connecticut Wool Producers Association; M. R. Benedict, Cooperative Wool Growers of South Dakota; Clare Hotchkiss, Consolidated Wool Growers of Western Colorado; A. H. Caine, Idaho Wool Growers Association; Wm. E. Hedgcock, Illinois Agricultural Association; F. J. Ferris, Indiana Wool Growers Association; J. L. Nielson, Jericho Pool, Utah; C. G. Elling, Kansas Sheep & Wool Growers Cooperative Association; M. M. Stewart, Maryland Farm Bureau Wool Pool, Inc.; W. W. Billings, Michigan Farm Bureau Wool Pool; R. E. Jones, Minnesota Cooperative Wool Growers Association; Matt Staff, Montana Wool Growers Cooperative Marketing Association; Magnus Brown, National Wool Growers, Dept. A. S. of E.; J. C. Cort, N. E. Sheep & Wool Growers Association; F. E. Robertson, N. Y. State Sheep Growers Cooperative Association; Geo. P. Wolf, The North Dakota Cooperative Wool Marketing Association; F. L. Hall, Northwestern Nebraska Sheep Growers

Association; L. B. Palmer, Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association; E. E. Brownell, Pacific Cooperative Wool Growers; W. B. Connell, Extension Service of State College, Pa.; M. J. Plemmons, South Alabama Wool Growers Association; J. N. Smith, Southern Utah Wool Growers Marketing Association; A. L. Jordan, State Extension Service of Knoxville, Tenn.; John Bennion, Uintah Wool Marketing Company, Vernal, Utah; Jas. A. Hooper, Utah Wool Marketing Association; L. A. Webster, Virginia Cooperative Sheep & Wool Growers Association.

Following the sessions with the Department of Agriculture representatives of all the organizations met for discussion of methods of operation and of co-ordinating the work of their associations. There was

full agreement as to the necessity of free exchange of information respecting amounts of wool held for sale, ideas of price trends and selling plans and policies. Closer cooperation in the making of sales was recognized as desirable in the interests of producers as well as from the standpoint of stability and satisfactory progress in all branches of the wool industry.

A committee to be known as the National Wool Marketing Committee was named to report a plan for the accomplishment of these aims. The members are: F. E. Robertson, Syracuse, New York; L. B. Palmer, Columbus, Ohio; Dr. E. E. Brownell, San Francisco, California; Jas. A. Hooper, Salt Lake City, Utah; J. F. Wilson, Davis, California, and Wm. E. Hedgcock, Chicago, Illinois.

Studies of the Rate of Wool Growth

By Robert H. Burns

Length of fiber is one of the primary factors used in the commercial valuation of wool. The two classes as determined by the length are combing and clothing. The former class is also called staple. In late years another class intermediate between the first two has been designated as French combing. Any wool long enough to run through a comb was called combing wool while the shorter wools were used largely in the clothing trade as contrasted to the worsted trade and hence came to be known as clothing wools.

There are several standards of length but the most complete one is that set forth by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department, of Agriculture, which is as follows:

	Clothing	French Combing	Strictly Combing
Fine.....	Under 1 1/4"	1 1/4" to 2"	Over 2"
Half Blood.....	Under 1 1/4"	1 1/4" to 2 1/4"	Over 2 1/4"
Three-eighths Blood.....	Under 1 1/2"	1 1/2" to 2 1/2"	Over 2 1/2"
Quarter.....	Under 1 1/2"	1 1/2" to 2 3/4"	Over 2 3/4"
Low Quarter.....	Under 2"	2" to 3"	Over 3"

For the past year, the Wyoming Experimental Station has conducted studies

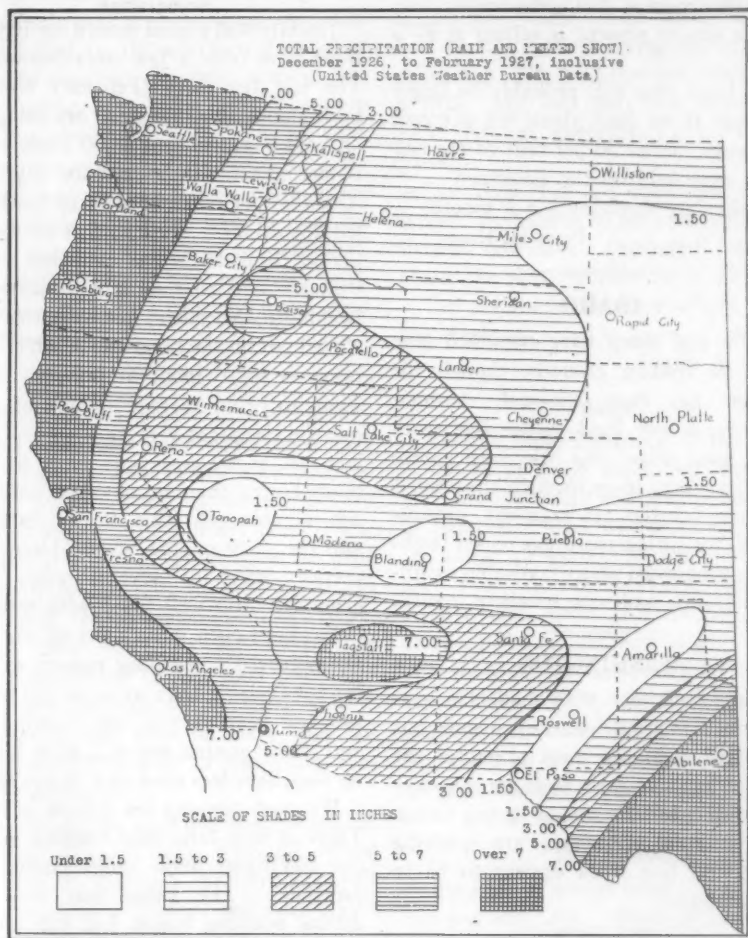
of monthly wool growth in Lincoln sheep. This is a cooperative experiment with the United States Department of Agriculture. The results have shown that measurement of the staple on the sheep is a very unreliable method of obtaining the monthly wool growth. The clipping method however, in which an area is cleared to the skin each month has given very good results. The experiment began in September and ended at shearing time in April. This year another test is in progress.

The growth varies with individuals and the time of year. This last factor is very likely dependent upon feed conditions. However, during the time the experiment was carried on no green feed was available, but in another test the growth increased markedly in June when the sheep were first given green feed.

The results of the growth test with Lincolns are as follows. All growth is from right shoulder and is given in inches and tenths of inches, for each month.

Sheep No.	Sex	Age of Fleece at Start	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Length of 1926 Fleece
95	Female	5 months	.3	.6	.6	.6	.5	.4	.5	7.2
41329	Female	4 "	.7	.6	.6	.5	.4	.5	.5	6.1
112	Female	6 "	.6	.5	.5	.6	.6	.5	.4	6.2
298	Female	3 "	.8	.7	.6	.6	.5	.6	.6	6.5
344	Male	2 "	.7	.7	.6	.6	.7	.7	.6	7.2

THE SEASON'S RAINFALL



Distribution During December, 1926 and January and February 1927

The winter's precipitation has averaged somewhat above normal over the West generally, being considerably above in western Oregon, on the northern and southern California coasts, and over limited districts in Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. At the same time other important areas in these last named states showed rather deficient precipitation, for the winter as a whole. Winter deficiencies also appear over Montana, northern Idaho, eastern Oregon, southern Nevada, northern Wyoming, eastern Colorado, and in the Texas panhandle.

It happens, however, that the February precipitation was much heavier than that of either December or January in many places. This was especially true in northern Nevada, northern Arizona, southern California, and parts of Utah and Wyoming, in which areas the outlook for spring range is possibly better than would be indicated by the totals of winter precipitation. It must be noted, however, that February was comparatively dry in eastern Oregon, Idaho panhandle, Montana, northern Wyoming, eastern Colorado and the southern portion of New Mexico, where soil moisture supplies are consequently not quite so encouraging.

EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY OF MOISTURE AT VARIOUS POINTS

Precipitation on the Western Live-stock
Ranges during December, 1926, Janu-
ary and February, 1927 and
Departure from the Normal

Washington

	Total for 3 Months	Departure
Seattle	13.48	-0.32
Spokane	6.58	+0.59
Walla Walla	5.13	-0.56

Oregon

Portland	22.04	+3.13
Baker City	3.47	-0.74
Roseburg	17.44	+1.26

California

Red Bluff	14.40	+2.35
San Francisco	11.38	-0.89
Fresno	5.26	+0.80
Los Angeles	11.27	+2.62

Nevada

Winnemucca	3.88	+0.92
Reno	3.57	-0.60
Tonopah	0.49	-0.98

Arizona

Flagstaff	7.57	+0.39
Phoenix	3.75	+0.30

New Mexico

Santa Fe	3.26	+1.07
Roswell	1.25	-0.21

Texas

Amarillo	1.37	-0.94
Abilene	9.85	+6.74
El Paso	0.98	-0.51

Montana

Helena	1.78	-0.69
Kalispel	3.83	-1.07
Havre	1.51	-0.28
Miles City	1.41	-0.39
Williston, N. D.	1.83	+0.12

Idaho

Lewiston	3.44	-1.00
Pocatello	4.06	+1.69
Boise	5.66	+0.63

Utah

Logan	4.13	-0.26
Salt Lake City	4.42	+0.36
Modena	2.43	-0.08
Blanding	6.47	+1.33

Wyoming

Yellowstone	2.79	-3.11
Sheridan	1.64	-0.62
Lander	2.37	+0.59
Cheyenne	2.01	+0.74
Rapid City, S. D.	0.56	-0.80
North Platte, Neb.	0.86	-0.48

Colorado

Denver	1.34	-0.37
Pueblo	1.85	+0.57
Grand Junction	3.92	+2.36
Dodge City, Kans.	1.71	-0.03

AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the name of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter or the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comments and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

WYOMING

The weather has been milder than usual, and snows came at intervals in sufficient quantity for live stock on the open range. Forage has been ample and live stock are mostly in good condition. Some heavier snowstorms locally in the western portion resulted in some shrinkage of stock, though they were unimportant. Heavy snows over some eastern portions near the close caused some increased feeding, but live stock have not suffered. The spring range outlook is good in most sections.

MONTANA

Alternate freezing and thawing weather early in the month, attended also by considerable precipitation, proved rather hard on live stock; and in the far eastern portion there was insufficient moisture in places. There was a small loss of range live stock, and many range horses starved and froze to death. There has been enough supplementary feed on hand, however, and live stock have generally held up very well, and are now, since the weather has turned warmer, in fairly good condition.

Hamilton

Fifty per cent of the wools in this section have been contracted at 33 cents a pound, flat rate. The bulk of the wool here is three-quarter and half blood and considerable quarter blood.

We had lots of sunshine during February, but the nights were very frosty, about ten to fifteen above zero. The feed on the range is all frozen, but here in the Bitter Root Valley, we always feed hay

about three months during the winter time. Alfalfa hay at present is selling at \$7 a ton.

Our lamb crop will probably be larger this year as we bred about ten per cent more ewes; about 30 per cent of the ewe lambs were held by the sheepmen.

Herders are receiving \$75 a month.

Peter H. Ruus.

IDAHO

Cattle and sheep have remained generally on feeding grounds, though the weather has been seasonal, without severities of any kind; hence live stock are in good shape as a rule, with plenty of feed to carry them through the winter. Moisture supplies are excellent, promising well for spring pasturage. Shed lambing has progressed under favorable weather conditions, and with excellent results.

WASHINGTON

Showery weather with moderate temperatures has prevailed, though snow has come well down on most slopes of the mountainous sections. Soils are generally well soaked for the use of spring forage and vegetation. Pastures are greening nicely, and live stock appear to be in good condition.

Roosevelt

We have experienced the wettest February in many years, but the results with February lambing are generally good, and prospects for spring feed are excellent.

No lambs have been contracted yet, but one contract for 1927 wool has been made at 30 cents.

The wage for herders is \$75 a month.

R. A. Jackson.

OREGON

Temperatures have been near the seasonal or somewhat above, while precipitation has been frequent and moderately heavy. This gives an excellent soil condition for spring ranges, though fields and feeding lots are very muddy. Lambing under cover has progressed, generally with good results.

Somerange

January was a good month for feeding; there were only a few days below zero. The last few days (February 6) have been muddy, but the sheep are doing fine on wild hay, which is \$6.00 a ton—there is not much alfalfa hay for sale here. About 75 per cent of the sheep have been fed this winter. The length of the feeding period depends on the character of the winter. This year we had to commence feeding in December; last year the sheep stayed out on the range much later. The range is pretty poor at present. There seems to be an average amount of grass, but the sheep got very thin on the range last fall, as the grass apparently had less nourishment than usual. We have had considerable rain this winter, however, and the snow on the Steen Mountain is deeper than for several years. The ground is also well filled with water as it has been open when most of our rainfall occurred. For these reasons we look for better range than we have had for the last few years. It is still snowing here and if the ground hog is a good prophet we shall have lots more of it before spring.

We start lambing the middle of April. There is very little shed lambing here as our conditions make range lambs more profitable. The range was very dry during bucking season last fall and on that account we do not expect so many lambs as last year, but a good average.

The wool crop here will probably be considerably shorter than last year on account of the drouth last fall.

From \$90 to \$100 is paid to herders in this section.

Pedro Garay.

CALIFORNIA

The month was mild generally, and in most places rains have been up to normal needs, being excessive in many counties. The result is good pasturage in most places, and live stock are in excellent condition. Lambing was hindered during the rainstorms in the northern portion, though without important losses. Some live stock suffering was also reported on the north coast. The spring pasturage outlook so far is very good.

NEVADA

Mild weather has been the general rule this month, only a slight, local complaint being heard in the northern portion of the cold causing suffering among live stock, temporarily. The moisture supply has been abundant as a rule, which over the northern portion has caused some increased feeding; but farther south where precipitation was in the form of rain, the spring grasses are making a good start, and range conditions have been very satisfactory. Live stock generally are in good condition.

Yelland

February was a very windy, blustery month, with little snow. The sheep have done well, in spite of the fact that the range, which we use all winter, is very poor as the result of four dry years. The range was not at all good when we went on to it in the fall; in fact, it was so poor that the sheepmen provided corn, which they have scarcely used. The snows have been so light that conditions have been just right for the sheep to feed. Nevada is still light on snow, the fall being just as heavy in the valleys as in the mountains.

In this section wool has been contracted at from 30 to 32 cents a pound. I am not able to estimate the shrinkage, although usually most of our wool has a moderately light shrinkage.

No contracts have been made up to date for 1927 lambs. About the same number of ewes are to lamb this spring as a year ago; from one-fourth to one-half of the ewe lambs were retained last fall.

Alfalfa hay in the stack is quoted at from \$6 to \$10. Herder's wages range from \$90 to \$100 a month.

John Yelland

NEW MEXICO

Mild weather with frequent precipitation has been favorable for live stock and ranges, which are now in fairly good condition. A considerable quantity of new browse has appeared over southern counties, though some feeding continued in the northern portion, especially on the more inclement days.

Roy

We have had an open winter, the finest in twenty years. Our ewes are in fine shape without being fed any hay or alfalfa. We feed our ewe lambs only a little cake and they are doing very well. No loss whatever of either ewes or lambs.

The range is in A-1 condition; I think it could feed about 50 per cent more sheep than we now have. Our bands remain at about the same number as in 1926.

Ten dollars is asked for alfalfa hay in the stack.

Frank A. Roy.

Aztec

At this time, February 7, the winter range is in good condition, but it is sufficiently stocked and our summer range is crowded. Most of the sheepmen use the range all winter, feeding some grain and cake during January, February, March, and April. Alfalfa hay in the stack can be bought now at \$6 a ton.

I thing about one-fourth of the ewe lambs were kept by the sheepmen to replace the old ewes; the bands at present are about as they were last year, so far as size is concerned.

Guy Simmons.

Des Moines

Feed on the winter range is fair (March 1), but very dry. About 60 per cent of the sheep run on the range all winter and the rest are fed. Very little alfalfa hay is available here.

Some men have contracted their 1927 wool at 25 cents a pound; I can not say what the shrinkage of this wool is.

I think our lamb crop will be about as large as it was in 1926.

Our range is well stocked now.

E. M. Seaten.

Aztec

February was wet and stormy, but not cold. Grass on the range is getting a little bit short, but we still have plenty of sagebrush. Our sheep use the range all winter, but we usually feed a little corn or cottonseed cake in addition. Alfalfa hay can be purchased at from \$7 to \$10 a ton.

We have lots of moisture on the lambing grounds and the outlook for good

lambing is excellent. The lamb crop may be slightly larger this year as we bred about ten per cent more ewes last fall.

No wools have been contracted here yet, but considerable wool has been tied up at Cortez and Mancos, just across the Colorado line, at 30 cents, shrinkage estimated to be about 60 per cent.

Temple H. Cornelius

Tatum

We had warm and dry weather during February. Feed on the range is good at present, (March 3). Most of the sheep run on the range during the winter months; some are fed a month before lambing and others not at all. We pay \$8 a ton for our hay. The range is fully stocked at the present time.

There has been no activity in wools or lambs in this vicinity.

A. D. Jones.

WESTERN TEXAS

The weather has been mild, with moderate to heavy rains at timely intervals. Cold 'Northers' blew two or three times for brief spells, but were not at all disastrous. Live stock and ranges are mostly in fair to good condition.

Lampasas

The month of February was fairly warm with some rain about the 15th, and the weeds and grass are commencing to grow on the range. About 75 per cent of the sheep use the range all winter. Most of our flocks are small farm flocks and do not require herding.

The 1927 wools have been contracted in this vicinity at 35 cents; they are estimated to shrink around 50 or 60 per cent. No lambs have been contracted. We will have a smaller lamb crop this year as there were fewer ewes bred last fall. Only about 20 per cent of the ewe lambs were sold last fall, however, the rest being held by raisers to build up their flocks. At the present time our range could support more sheep than we have.

C. Snell.

Ozona

Range conditions are very encouraging here at this time (February 21). Something like 5,000,000 pounds of long wool

(Continued on Page 41)

Sheep Affairs In Australia

By A. C. Mills

Melbourne, January 15, 1927

Sheepmen while wrestling with constantly rising taxation and wages, unsatisfactory labor conditions, uncertain seasons, and falling values of mutton, not unnaturally resent assertions that their particular industry is in a flourishing state. Apart from the annoyance of being told they are doing well when they know they aren't, bitter experience has shown that such allegations are too often made an excuse for piling a few more burdens on the sheep's broad back. The latest statements to which they have had cause to take exception were made by Colonel Willey, a leading textile authority in Great Britain, in the course of a recent address in London. These statements have received more prominence on this side than they really called for, and my only reason for referring to them is that they have led to the publication of some interesting facts relative to wool values and producing costs that may interest overseas readers.

When dealing with the economic position of wool Colonel Willey is reputed to have stated that "the grower in the main had received adequate reward". In support of this he said: "The average value per bale for five years before the war was \$65, and for the last five years the average was \$115, an increase of 77 per cent, which more than adequately compensated for the decreased purchasing power of gold."

The reply has been capably handled by Mr. C. G. Waddell, chairman of the Australian Woolgrowers Council. He, having access to full statistics, points out that so far as Australia is concerned selling prices for the past five years have only approximated 50 per cent above pre-war values. Also that mutton prices are now lower than pre-war prices, or any prices which have since obtained. The purchasing power of money (retail prices, foodstuffs and groceries) has decreased by approximately 60 per cent, and wholesale prices by about 80 per cent. This he says, shows how the grower's gross income has been adversely affected.

Dealing with expenditure Mr. Waddell says: "The shearing rate is more than 70 per cent above pre-war rate, and shed-hands' wages are 140 per cent above pre-war rates. Rail freights are from 10 to 170 per cent above pre-war rates in various states. Interest charges are approximately 33 per cent higher. The cost of materials, stores, etc., has increased fully 50 per cent over pre-war cost, and taxation 152.2 per cent."

On the question of realizations he states: "Wool prices in 1923-24 averaged 48.348 cents per pound, and in 1924-25 they averaged 52.18 cents per pound, but the average value for 1925-26 season was 33.42 cents per pound, and the present season will perhaps work out at 32 cents per pound."

"Seeing that the 'real value' of wool (allowing for the decreased purchasing power of money) is now approximately on a level with pre-war values, and that costs of production have increased, say, 50 per cent all round, how can Colonel Willey justify his statement that growers 'have received adequate rewards'? Obviously the facts are against him, and the wool grower's position, because of increased costs and decreased prices, is very serious."

The bit about the seriousness of increased costs and decreased realizations finds an echo in the heart of most breeders. It is acknowledged by Mr. Waddell and everybody else that in good seasons when prices happen to be high the reward is adequate, but averaging the good with the bad sheep raising to-day, it is claimed, gives no more than a very moderate return on capital invested.

When the first half of the Australian wool selling season closed just before Christmas, receipts into store totalled 2,211,413 bales. Of these 1,194,711 had been sold by auction, 18,121 shipped unsold, and 998,581 remained to be disposed of. Unless anything extraordinary happens at least 90 per cent, any subsequent arrivals, should be auctioned by the end of March.

January sales opened in Sydney on

January 4, when all good wools met with keen competition. Although not quotably dearer, values showed an improving tendency as compared with closing December rates. On the other hand faulty, broad fleeced, and burry wools continue to sell irregularly on about a par with December prices. The top realized for greasy fleece in Sydney this series is 65 cents per pound. A fair number of clips have sold there up to and over 55 cents. At Hobart, Tasmania, where some very fine Merinos are offered, 83½ cents per pound was paid this week for the top lot of one clip, and three others went a fraction over 80 cents. The best price realized for a comeback was 56½ cents per pound.

December witnessed some fairly general rains over the previously dry north-east of the continent that have gone a good way towards relieving the drought pressure in that part. The falls were unfortunately patchy in west and central Queensland, and west New South Wales, but elsewhere really excellent downpours were recorded. The rain in the south and central divisions has been light on the whole. Summer falls are not wanted there in a normal season as they wash and beat down the dry feed, and spoil its value.

Since last writing full statistics relative to the New Zealand lambing of 1925-26 have been published. It appears the number of lambs dropped was 11,794,699, being equal to 84.57 per cent of the total breeding ewes in the whole Dominion. Sheep of both sexes in New Zealand on April 30 were 24,904,993. Of the eleven and three quarter million lambs dropped it is probable that fully 4¼ million will be frozen and shipped overseas, besides at least two millions carcasses of mutton.

The packing season is now getting well under way, but when the last mail left the buying price had hardly been established. Then operators in the Canterbury, South Island, district were paying from 17 cents to 18 cents per pound, dressed weight, for first grade lambs under 36 pounds and down to 15 cents for heavy weights. First grade light wethers were costing to 10½ cents, and heavies down to 7 cents, with ewes from 4 cents to 7 cents a pound.

"Face Covering" In Popular Breeds of Sheep

By J. F. Wilson

During the last week in September I judged the sheep at the Southern California Fair at Riverside. When the Hampshire yearling rams were lined up it was immediately apparent that one of the rams would either have to be awarded first prize or else would have to be placed last. He could not be placed in the middle because he was different in type from the other animals composing the group. This ram was by far the largest of any in the class. He was really superior in body conformation and had an alertness and style about him that was attractive. But he was bare faced. The black extended up over the poll and well down on the cheeks. As a Hampshire of the type which has been winning at all shows the last few years, he simply "wasn't there" when the good heads were being passed out. So I put him down, and his owner thought I did right. When the awards were made, however, a wail of protest came from a successful Arizona range sheepman who was watching the proceedings. This man did not accuse me of not "knowing my onions" but he had no hesitancy in letting the world know that when he buys bucks for his own purposes, to sire good market lambs, he wants only the kind of sheep that I turned down. He wants 'em bareheaded.

A couple of days ago I was working on

an experimental project involving the use of Rambouillets. Our University Rambouillet flock has been built up largely from the use of stud rams bred by Bullard Brothers, of Woodland, and the flock in general carries heads that would be acceptable in any show ring in the country. Woolled to the nose, they are, with a "cap" the spells *type* according to 1926 standards of excellence. Of course, the sheep I was working with are practically blind, although they are carrying only four months' fleece. The face covering for which we have so carefully selected is certainly not conducive to keen preception on the part of the sheep. The open faced Romneys which were being used in the same experiment were all alert and moved about the corral as if they knew where they were going. The Rambouillets moved about the corral too. They ran in one direction until they banged their heads against the fence, then ran in another direction until the same thing happened again.

As the Shropshires—but why go on? It's the same old anecdote. The Shrops have "face covering" too, a whole lot more than the Hamps have, although it looks as if Hampshire breeders are soon going to catch up in the race to put a good staple of wool as near the sheep's incisors as possible. We'll end the preliminary

part of this program by saying that at present you can't go into the show ring with a bare-headed Hampshire, Shropshire, or Rambouillet, and turn around and walk right out again with a blue ribbon between your teeth. It simply isn't good form in the year of our Lord, 1927.

The primary objective for the breeder of registered sheep in western United States is to furnish rams to the range sheepman or to the man who is raising



Some breeders consider the head of the ram shown above to be of desirable type. Is the excessive wool covering really useful?

market stuff. The percentage of stud rams which any breeder can raise is comparatively small and he must look forward to selling most of his rams at ordinary prices for strictly commercial purposes. *There should be no difference between show type and utility type.* If open faced sheep are better from a utility point of view, they should also be better for the stud breeder and they should win in the show ring if they are good enough in other respects.

I cannot claim to know the sentiments of even a majority of range sheepmen on this subject. I do know that in California a very large number of producers of market lambs entertain the same notion about bare-faced bucks that my Arizona critic so forcefully stated. I don't blame them for wanting bare heads. The covered face issues a cordial invitation to every stray foxtail and says "come on in, the eyes are fine." And foxtail seeds are not slow to accept the invitation. Come to the Sacramento Valley in Cal-



Heads covered like these (referring to the sheep) are wanted by Shropshire breeders. Are they wanted by the range sheepman?

ifornia any time after the first of May, visit any breeder of registered Hamps, Shrops, or Rambouillets, and you'll find the owner as busy as the proverbial bird dog plucking foxtail, fileria, and broncho grass out of his sheeps' eyes. Go then to the breeders of barefaced sheep, the Romneys, Dorsets, and so on, and you'll find the owners are troubled about one-tenth as much. Hundreds of good sheep are made permanently blind in California every year from getting seed in the eyes, and the face covering is in a large measure responsible.

Did you ever hear that little ditty composed at the U. S. Sheep Experiment Station at Dubois, Idaho, and entitled "Open versus Closed Face?" Mr. D. A. Spencer and his cohorts found out that the open faced ewes averaged over a pound more wool per head than the wool blind ewes and weighed over four pounds heavier as yearlings. The experiment involved over 1500 sheep and was carried on under range conditions. The results are not surprising. The open faced ewes could see where they were going; they could see where the good feed was and the wool blind sheep had to find the feed by accident. No wonder some of the range sheepmen want open faced bucks.

Consider the poor Australian. He lives on the bottom side of the world (at least during half of each day). The Australian Merino breeders found out long ago that a covered face spells eye trouble in sheep, and judging from photographs of prize winning Merinos at antipodean stock shows, a sheep with a head covered like our Rambouillet winners are, would be about as popular over there as a Republican is in Mississippi. The "Anzacs" want their Merinos open faced for the same reason that my friend from Arizona wants his Hampshires that way. They don't want a lot of wool blind hat racks on their hands and they don't want the job of treating sore eyes any oftener than is necessary.

I don't know just where the craze for wooly faces got started, but I think I know when it got started. I believe it started when face coverings were popular among the male element of human beings. Twenty-five years ago a man's idea of making himself beautiful was to grow an

abundant soup strainer under his nose and top it off with a hirsute appendage on his chin. In those days no man could win at a drawing room show unless his physiognomical characteristics were enhanced 47 per cent by the presence of a **crop of facial spinach**. They used to call some of the boys Harry but what they really meant was *hairy*. And wasn't it about that same time when hairy vetch was introduced too, and hairy Peruvian alfalfa? And every bay window in everybody's home was decorated with a maiden-hair fern, and the men even wanted hair triggers on their six-shooters. But what about today? The relics of twenty-five years ago are "heilooms"—except for face covering on sheep. The modern Adonis uses his safety razor eight days out of seven and knows that he'll get the gate if he doesn't. Even the women's heads are not covered as they once were.

Of course, if it is ever recognized that wool blindness is a detriment to the sheep, the breeders of America's most popular breeds are going to have to undo something that now represents years of patient selection. But a covered face is so patently a drawback that we will some day get away from it. It is a characteristic just about as handy as a handle on a hen's nest. A change toward the open faced type should start in the show ring if sheep breeders are to make the change.

The first sheep judge who hands the blue to an open faced Rambouillet or Shropshire—wow! He'll have to be possessed of a lot of intestinal fortitude (a college professor can't say "guts"!) such as I didn't have at Riverside.

Moral: You can't make soup out of the face covering of a sheep.

GRAZING PERIODS AND FORAGE PRODUCTION

Ways in which the productivity of cattle and sheep ranges may be kept up or bettered are described by grazing experts in Bulletin No. 1405, issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The bulletin is the work of Dr. Arthur W. Sampson, formerly plant ecologist of the Forest Service and at present with the department of range management at the University of California, and Harry E.

Malmsten, grazing examiner of the Forest Service, who based their recommendations on studies made at the Great Basin Experiment Station and in other parts of the Wasatch mountains in Utah.

The time when stock are allowed on a particular range has a vital influence on the amount of forage produced each season, and consequently on the number of stock that the range can continue to carry. "Early yield of forage", states the bulletin, "is comparatively small if the herbage is cropped when its average height is four inches or less. Grazing when the plants are at this stage stunts the vegetation, and does not satisfy the needs of the animal because of the low food value of the short succulent forage."

Experiments made showed, however, "that one moderately early grazing in alternate seasons does not impair the vigor of the plants" and that "a system of grazing which provides for the cropping of the herbage at the time of vegetational readiness or early in the season will not be detrimental if the forage is not removed too closely and subsequent croppings are not made before the vegetation has had ample time to recover from the first grazing."

The bulletin goes on to say that "grazing closely twice or even three times in a season, provided the first grazing is late enough and the intervals are sufficient for the vegetation quite to recover from each cropping, ordinarily does not seriously affect the yield and vigor of the plant cover."

In regard to the efficacy of reseeding the range, the bulletin states: "Attempts to reseed artificially the plains and drier foothills to cultivated forage plants have given results of no practical value. In view of the none too promising results obtained from the artificial reseeding of range lands, coupled with the high cost, any far-sighted stockman will take the necessary precautions to keep his range in good, vigorous productive condition, and certainly will not allow it to deteriorate beyond a stage where it can readily be brought back by natural revegetation."

"The 'deferred and rotation grazing plan' has been adopted widely on national forest ranges in order to obtain the greatest possible use of the forage and at the

same time keep the lands in a high state of productivity. The plan is based upon the growth requirements of range vegetation, coupled with methods of handling live stock to foster seed production, provide for the planting of the seed crop, and furnish forage for the stock during the revegetation period. Briefly, the plan is to reserve some portion of the range for cropping after the seed has ripened. The following year, in order to avoid the

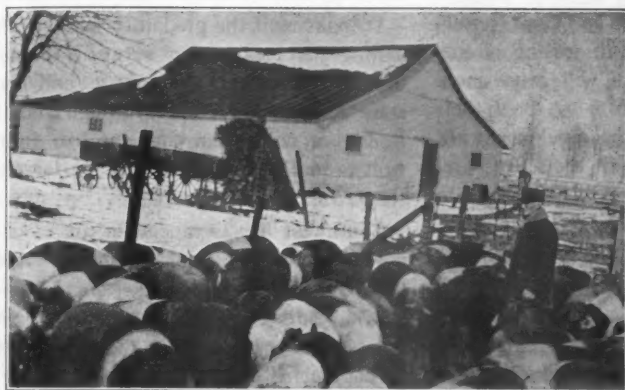
destruction of the seedlings which originated from the seed of the first year's crop, and to provide for additional seed where needed the same area is usually reserved a second time. If after two years of such deferred grazing the forage plants have become vigorous and an ample number of seedling plants have become established, a second area in need of seeding is selected and the tract upon which grazing was originally deferred is cropped be-

fore seed maturity. This plan of deferring the grazing on one depleted area and then on another is continued until the entire range has been revegetated.

Copies of the bulletin, "Grazing Periods and Forage Production on the National Forests", Bulletin No. 1405-D, may be obtained, as long as the supply lasts, from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

SQUEALS FOR A CHANGE

An Old Time Ohio Lamb Feeder Who Shifted to Hogs Last Fall



F. Gabriel, a consistent Ohio lamb feeder. Mr. Gabriel used hogs last season on account of the soft condition of the corn and the price of lambs.

This farmer is a lamb feeder, however much he doesn't look it. At the present instant he is very much more a hog fat-tener; but having finished lambs from away back he is a potential lamb feeder always there to bolster the lamb-finishing industry. Such men are an asset to the range sheep business. But when lamb finishing gets to be a tight and close figuring matter, it is a sign of sound sense to wind some long green onto the financial roll by cording up the sheep racks and letting hogs save the day if they will.

Mr. F. Gabriel of Marion County, Ohio, is a live-stock dealer and finisher of long and critical experience. When lambs are not found in Mr. Gabriel's feed lots, there's a reason—and five chances out of five it's a financial reason. When Mr. Gabriel fills his feed lots with hogs, the act is what might be termed a judicial opinion in favor of the plaintiff, Mr. Swine, as against the defendant, Lamb & Company. The barn shown in the picture is evidently a lamb finishing plant;

the yards are not paved and Mr. Swine, the plaintiff, had to make a good case of quo warranto in order to take possession.

Each hog put in at around 100 pounds in weight is just about ready to go into a slatted car at 325 pounds. There are 212 of the hogs, so any figure shark will find that the number of lambs necessary to put on an equal gain in the same length of time would have been away up! Corn this year is mighty indifferent and takes a lot of sorting, which a hog is very good at and a lamb is very bad at! Clover and alfalfa hay are scarce all through the East this winter and locally can be cashed in the barn away above timothy. Mr. Gabriel can sell his two barns full of legume hays and replace the farm fertility lost by getting corn delivered at his feed lots for 60 cents a bushel.

The hog market is a steadier market this winter than the lamb market—so there you are! These hogs might be said by some to be pretty weighty; but when they go to market there will be hardly

a quarter of a dollar between the price and the top of the market, with a latitude of time in which to sell, whereas overweight lambs must kick out or flop in price. When these hogs get the desired finish there are near-by Ohio killers who are ready to come to the farm and settle over the home scales—so there you are at least the fifth time, all in line with the financial bean of Mr. Gabriel.

But the lamb-feeding racks are in the barn: I saw them all! Under Mr. Gabriel's cap as he stands there in his scale yard surrounded by heavy Hampshire butcher hogs—under that cap is sheep and lamb sense and experience from the word "Go" back around 1900 A. D. Now, any sagebrush rider would say that the thing to do is to shove the coin to the bank when the shoving is good, for one of these times hogs may squeal mighty wicked-like and both F. Gabriel and Mr. Sheepprancher can get on trading terms again.

G. P. Williams

WEST TEXAS

With lambing now in full blast all over the country, ranchmen are predicting a good yield. Range conditions are favorable and the chief worry that the sheepmen now have, outside of income tax payments, is as to what the lambs are going to bring this summer and fall. The prices of 10 cents and 10½ cents of last season were high enough to enable the ranchers to make some money and at the same time it was thought that the feeders could also make a profit.

In spite of the bearish talk by the feeders the forecast of a better price for wool, if it reaches here, will have the effect of also making lamb prices stand up. The feeder lamb trade has been managed in a very satisfactory manner and while it has not developed into a mail order business, still it is handled without shipping the animals through stockyards; in other words it is direct to the consumer. Optimism is expressed on all sides that the lamb prices will be good, and the reduced railway rates secured will make it cheaper for the shippers to get their stuff to the consumer.

A larger number of Texas lambs were fed in the state this year, not in this breeding country but in other sections where formerly only cattle had been fed. At Brownwood, about 5000 lambs were fed and at Sweetwater some other feeding was done. Since a larger number of ewe lambs, about 75 per cent, were held back last year from the market there will be a heavy addition to the yearling ewes in this section for breeding this fall.

The meeting of the executive committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association at Ozona in February voted to have the annual convention in Kerrville on July 19, 20 and 21. This city of Kerrville has ample hotel facilities and will be able to care for the convention handsomely. Committees were named for the carrying on of the convention, of the sale to be held in connection therewith, and to care for all details.

The association, which credits itself with having the second largest fine-wool show in the United States last year, is planning to make that show the finest in the na-

tion. A premium list, the largest in the State of Texas, is to be offered at the San Angelo fair this year and an effort made through a wide advertising campaign to get a large number of entries.

The Texas Branch of the American Rambouillet Association, which last year secured \$400 in the form of prizes for the show, will get even a larger amount this year. A cup, won by T. L. Drisdale of Juno, was offered last year for the member having the best lamb flock. D. T. Jones, the secretary, says most of the members of that association have a number of lambs on feed in preparation for the event.

Members of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association have been discussing recently some method which will cause more young or new exhibitors to show their stuff. Not many of the ranchmen want to take the trouble to fit their stuff and if it is not fitted there is no chance to win. Some are objecting to the habit of some judges in explaining the reason for their awards, saying that it hurts the sales.

The Producers Wool and Mohair Company at Del Rio has increased its capital stock from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and has made Roy Hudspeth the president. Interest rates on loans by such houses are showing a tendency to go lower. The warehouse competition is getting to be pretty keen, but the growers would like to see the various houses work together to secure better prices for their wool and mohair. The men at the head of the warehouses are in the main the best wool men in the state.

The fencing movement still continues, and it will not be long ere the sheep herders will be a thing for legend only. But there will always be need in this section for Mexican labor, in fact the ranchmen are up in arms against the move to place the Mexican immigration on the quota system.

The tax revision proposed for the state is meeting with approval as the ranch lands of the state have always been rendered too high.

Buck breeders are in good shape down here and they are making some money. Contracts for the delivery of bucks in

the fall are now being made around \$30 and up. There is expected to be a good demand for bucks at the sale to be held in July at Kerrville. Ozona on July 4, 5 and 6 will have a sale as well as a show on that date. That town has spent about \$30,000 on its fair grounds and equipment for sheep and cattle shows. Sonora only forty-five miles away is taking similar action to have a great live stock show.

Goatmen are kidding earlier this year than usual, for many are using the Reick goat coat, patented by Captain H. W. Reick of Roosevelt, an executive committeeman of the association.

It looks as if the predatory animal bill calling for cooperation between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the state authorities is to go through and if it does it will mean that the loss from wolves and other beasts will be largely stopped.

Southwest Texas ranchmen are in accord with the resolutions adopted by the National Association in its January convention and are willing to cooperate in every manner possible in the movement to popularize the lamb products.

Sam Ashburn.

COLORADO ORGANIZING FOR WOOL FINANCING

Incorporation of the Colorado Wool Marketing Association was arranged for at a meeting of wool growers held in Denver on January 15. The organization will be formed and conducted along the same lines as have been followed by wool marketing associations of other states that are financing unsold wools through the facilities offered by the Intermediate Credit Banks.

Kenneth W. Chalmers was elected president, and William E. Sweet and A. L. Bowen, vice presidents of the association, with the other members of the board of directors being W. W. Bennett, Pat O'Fallon, R. T. Tuller and H. G. Fulkerson.

V. B. Stark, with headquarters in Denver, was elected secretary-treasurer of the association.

Ranch Land Values, Loan Statements, and Budgets.

By E. L. Potter

Professor of Animal Husbandry, Oregon Agricultural College

Several months ago when the Editor of the Wool Grower suggested an article under this title, the subject appealed to me very much, although I felt quite incompetent to do justice to the job. However, since I was just about to start on a three-months' tour of the range states I felt that by the end of that time I might be able to discuss the matter intelligently and hence promised to comply with the request. It seems, however, that the more one studies this problem, the bigger it gets, and for every question we are able to answer a dozen new questions arise.

That range land values are too high seems to be the consensus of opinion and the limited amount of investigation that has been completed points in that direction. How much too high we have no means of determining and it is probable that no general ratio would hold throughout the country. Quite generally, prices are quoted at figures higher than the income would justify, but on the other hand, we find in some places a pessimism that seems quite unwarranted. We commonly hear it said that a stockman "cannot afford to own grazing land." Grass lands are renting for a figure approximating the taxes. The lease price is often fixed at exactly the taxes and rarely exceeds the taxes by more than two or three cents an acre. It is quite certain that ranch lands are not increasing in price and powerful factors are preventing an increase or even forcing prices downward.

At this point, a brief review of the history of ranch lands may be of interest. Of course, Henry Ford says that history is all the bunk, but even he seems to be changing his mind, and in this case the history of the situation not only tells us how it originated but something of what the situation actually is.

By the year 1890, the range country was fully stocked and the total number of range stock was approximately the same as today. Equating the sheep and horses and converting all into the equivalent

of beef cattle, the eleven western range states were carrying in 1890 a fraction over twelve million head. The number today is practically the same. The productivity of the grass has diminished somewhat in this thirty-five years and about four per cent of the area has been put under cultivation, but this has been offset by better control of the range grass and by more hay, so that the total number of stock supported is the same. The annual rate of turnover has been increased, but that has been through better breeding, management, and transportation, and not through any increase in the feed supply. Land tenure, however, has very materially changed.

The total area of the eleven western states is 753 million acres. Out of this area, 680 million acres are now used for range and grazing purposes. In 1890 the area used for grazing purposes was approximately 700 million acres. In 1890 the stockmen owned twenty-four million acres of land out of the 700 million which they used. The land which they did not own they used without price, although the value of this grazing was considered in determining the value of the deeded land. At the present time, the land owned by the stockmen has increased five times and is now 120 million acres. In addition, the stockmen lease from timber companies and miscellaneous owners 250 million acres, and they pay a fee to the national forest for the use of another 110 million acres. There is left 185 million acres which they get for nothing. Half of this may be classified as practically worthless, since it provides only a limited amount of feed every three or four years. The other half is better but still of very little value.

To express the matter somewhat differently, in 1890 the ownership of two acres of land made it possible for a stockman to run a steer throughout the year. Today in order to run a steer for a year, it is necessary that the stockman

have title to ten acres. In addition to that, he must lease twenty-one acres and must pay Forest Service fees on nine acres. The requirements for a ewe are proportional. One acre of deeded land today, therefore, actually provides the stockman with approximately one-twentieth of the feed that it provided in 1890. The effect of this change upon the value of each acre of deeded land can readily be seen.

The situation was brought about in the following manner: In 1890 the typical stockman owned enough hay land to feed the weak ones through the winter. He also owned a few of the important water holes. Practically all of his grazing was on land which he did not buy or lease. But things were changing rapidly. Homesteaders took up the remainder of his water and he had to buy them out at prices which were far more than the grass on these homesteads was worth. Other homesteaders settled in the middle of his best range and he had to buy them out at bribery prices in order to get rid of them. Then competition with other stockmen made it necessary to control the range at critical seasons, so he had to buy land for this purpose, and usually at a price above its value for furnishing feed.

All such land had a strategic value which made it sell for more than its productive value. Then the competition for range lessened the grass supply and the stockmen had to have more hay land for winter use. Next the national forests were established and the stockmen were obliged to pay a fee for all of the forest grazing lands. Private individuals and companies owning timber land were now able to demand a price for the use of their land and employed clever agents to extort the last penny. Every year from 1890 to 1920 saw the stockmen buying and leasing more land. Thus both the capital outlay and annual expenses were enormously increased without any increase

in the supply of feed or in the number of stock which the country would carry.

But what of the future? The price of mutton, wool, and beef is without doubt the most important consideration, but that is outside the scope of this story and we are just now more concerned with real estate movements. First we have to consider the 250 million acres of land which the live-stock interests are now leasing from miscellaneous owners. More than half of this land belongs to homesteaders, their heirs and assigns, and to other miscellaneous small owners. This land has no other value than for stock raising purposes and must eventually pass into the hands of the stockmen. With the present depression in the live stock industry, there is very little movement in that direction, but the moment the live stock industry becomes prosperous we will see large acreages of this land passing from the homesteaders and miscellaneous holders into the hands of cattle or sheep owners. This movement is inevitable; the only question is, when and at what price?

Not all of this leased land, however, belongs to homesteaders and small owners. There is quite a block that belongs to the Indian reservations and to states. This will doubtless continue to be leased. Other large areas are owned by persons or companies who are holding it for the timber which it carries. Such land is held at figures beyond its grazing value and there is little chance that the stockmen will have opportunity to purchase any of it and there is little reason to expect that it will be handled in any other manner than by the present leasing system. If live-stock prices should increase, however, it is very certain that the owners of this land will make a fight for higher prices for their leases.

In addition to these lands, we have to consider the national forests and the public domain. There is no chance that the stockmen will ever own the national forests and the chance of owning any large share of the public domain seems at present exceedingly remote. The matter of national forest fees, however, is not settled and probably never will be settled permanently. At any time when the live-stock industry is prosperous, the

Forest Service will want a slice of the profits in the form of increased fees. Apparently, the chief reason why the Forest Service have not been able to obtain the increased fees which they have been asking for now is that the stockmen are not in a position to pay. In the meantime, the public domain will doubtless undergo some changes. What those changes may be we can not tell, but it is highly probable that they will involve a fee for their use. At the present time, the public domain is for the most part of so little value that the fees for its use could not be other than nominal. If the time should come, however, when it did have a real value there would doubtless be a big effort made to increase the fees so as to absorb the profit. Now these conditions alone are enough of a problem for the stockman, but added to the economic problem is a growing public sentiment that "ranch lands are too high," and we all know that when the man on the street gets an idea he will, nine times out of ten, carry it too far. We would all admit that in 1920 ranch values were quite generally too high, but since that time deflation has been going on at a tremendous rate. It is high time to look for the stopping point, lest in our efforts to check inflation we go equally far in the opposite direction.

While there seems to be no panacea that will solve all of these difficulties with a wave of the hand, there are principles and practices which, if consistently followed, will lead us out of the present confusion and enable us to keep on a surer basis in the future. The first step is to determine the real productive value of the land. This is not necessarily a public problem, and it does not require survey or investigation by public authorities. It is rather a problem for the stockman himself and for his creditors. There is only one way to determine the value of ranch land and that is from a record of its income and expenses. There is only one way to estimate its future value and that is through an estimate of its future income and expenses; in other words, by a budget. Ten years ago most stockmen would have laughed at the idea of a budget, but the recent growing interest in cost of production, coupled

with the necessity of a more careful finance accounting, has caused a great increase in the practice of analyzing income and expenses both past and future. It is through this means and this means only that true land values may be ascertained. This is not merely the only way out for the stockmen, but it is the only way for the bankers and loan companies. The use of "statements" in making loans is very good in its place, but a statement may lack a lot of covering the entire field. An accurate statement of assets, liabilities, and net worth is a good indication of the foreclosure value of the loan, but it tells very little as to the ability of the borrower to forestall foreclosure.

A lot of good men are today riding straight to bankruptcy on a "good statement." Suppose a statement shows assets of \$60,000 and liabilities of \$20,000. Would not we say that such a man was "in good shape?" But suppose his assets were real estate earning two per cent and that his liabilities were notes drawing eight per cent, a condition that is not at all unusual? His assets earn \$1,200 and interest on the debt is \$1,600, leaving him with a net deficit of \$400 a year. The only chance to pay out is where the borrower's personal power is at least \$400 more than his personal expenses. On the other hand, it is quite possible for a man to be in debt for all he is worth and still be getting ahead. I have in mind a stockman who a few years ago found his assets actually less than his liabilities, but his creditors stayed with him, in spite of protests from the state banking department, because they knew that this man's earning power was large and that he possessed the ability to make his assets earn an unusual rate of interest. Time proved the correctness of their position. Another man was turned down by the same creditors because in spite of a good statement it was known that a large portion of his assets had no earning power although they were listed in the statement at actual cost. Bankers and loan agents are quite generally coming to realize these conditions but often only in a hazy sort of way, so that instead of the realization of making them careful it is making them panicky. The bank ex-

aminer in a big live-stock state recently said to me: "Agricultural land has no security value." That is certainly deflation with a vengeance. It is high time that we get away from these wild extremes and get down to facts.

The only way to avoid inflation on the one hand and deflation on the other is to put our business dealings on a budget basis and to determine as accurately as we can in each instance the actual income and expenses of the business. It might be found that the true value of the property was more or less than current market quotations, but it would be the correct value in either case. But while advocating that the true productive value

of a piece of property should always be ascertained, I do not mean to say that final price should necessarily be fixed at exactly that figure. We must always take into consideration the possibility of a change in the production value and adjust prices accordingly. Also, the home value of ranch property is often an item in fixing the price, and rightly so. It should never be forgotten, however, that productive value is the only thing that brings in any income and that income is the only thing that can meet the payments on the mortgage. Our plea is, therefore, not that land values be lower, nor that they be higher, but that they be based on a more accurate knowledge of productive value of the property.

marketing corn, fodder, and hay, not to speak of weeds, it has no superior. The corn belt may be laggard during the coming season and may not scatter all over the range bidding for lambs, but it should take as many as last season, if not more, and pay good prices.

Colorado had not cut many lambs loose by the end of February, but was moving them in slowly increasing numbers with every prospect of getting off well, provided any sort of orderly marketing is practiced. While it is admitted that northern Colorado had as many on March 1, as on the same date last year, the decks were clear this season and the market in receptive mood. The surplus of big lambs that paralyzed the market last March is not now on the horizon; in fact, the heavy lamb has received what may be considered respectable treatment this winter, probably for the reason that it was less conspicuous in the run although early arrivals at Denver were well up in weight, 95 to 105 pounds.

Some people in the trade contend that there is considerable "bunk" about heavy lamb discrimination. The fact is that it is possible to saturate the market with big lambs, which to a certain extent are a feed proposition. After what happened last year, feeders are as fearful on the subject of weight as a singed rat is reputed to be of fire. They sidestepped heavy feeding lambs last fall and gathered closely as to weight all this winter, the result being that no surplus of 95 to 105-pound stock has reached the market and penalization has not been severe; in fact, most of the lambs weighing over 90 pounds have paid well for their feed as they were "good doers." As a result feeders will be more cordial toward the thin lamb toting a little weight during the coming season.

A significant feature of Denver lamb trade this winter has been a narrow spread between heavy and handy-weight fed lambs. Possibly the purpose was to popularize weighty feeding stock. A more probable reason is that buyers at Chicago are driven with a tighter rein than at western buying outposts, accounting for the wider spread between heavy and light lambs at the central market. At

(Continued on Page 28)

The Demand for 1927 Feeder Lambs

By James E. Poole

Early contracting of new crop lambs in the West at \$10 and \$10.50 in Montana and Idaho respectively is not considered significant as these trades are on early lambs that carry short feeder ends. The 1926 feeder lamb market will develop late, probability being that little contracting will be done in the West on corn-belt feeder account. Bankers and commission men who finance sixty per cent of the annual corn-belt purchase are disposed to let nature take its course.

The slogan, "Buy lambs cheaper" is out. Few corn-belt feeders have made a dollar on this winter's operations. Some got a good price for their feed; others lost their feed. The February advance came too late to benefit any save a small minority. Had fat lambs averaged around \$14 per hundredweight at Chicago all winter, the stage would have been set for another high feeding lamb trade on the crop of 1927; as it is, the old crowd is in waiting mood, and the buying capacity of a possible new crowd is conjectural, probability being that the element in the feeding game that operates on its own capital will have a louder voice in determining values than last year. The popular corn-belt slogan is "Twelve-dollar feeding lambs." It is consensus of opinion, in and around the sheep houses, that a \$9 @ \$10 market on the range, or \$11 to \$12 at Chicago may de-

velop. Much depends upon the price received for the balance of the fed lambs which are nearly all in the hands of the Colorado men.

Whatever the price may be there will be a broad outlet for thin western lambs, especially if summer grazing is reasonably luxuriant and the corn prospect normal. The vexed corn surplus problem has been partly solved by disappearance of the surplus, but corn is still cheap, so cheap that the average farm-renting grower hears the howl of the wolf continuously. Results on the crop of western lambs fed in the corn belt during the past winter have been exaggerated. The crop consumed a lot of inferior corn that would have had no place in commercial channels. Some growling has been heard about gains, but that disadvantage cannot be charged to the feeding operation. The fact is that many feeders have got a decent price for indifferent feed and in addition have cashed a lot of roughage that would have no marketable value otherwise. Thin western lambs are indispensable to many corn-belt farmers, both for converting corn and roughage and manufacturing soil fertility. When the gain realizes \$13 to \$14 per hundredweight, it is possible for competent feeders to pay selling prices for thin stock. They will not amass wealth by the operation, but as a means of

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS' DEVELOPMENT IN SHEARING MACHINERY

Back in the 80's the founders of this business introduced the first sheep shearing machine to this country. One of the first plants went into operation at Casper, Wyoming and later machines were installed at Billings and Great Falls, Montana. Owing to the immediate demands for machines patent rights were secured and in 1890 our first factory was established at Chicago.

The first overhead gear worked on the friction principle, the large beveled driving wheel revolving against a small beveled friction leather with the drop shaft carried straight down from the friction wheel. So that the shaft might swing and have freedom of motion it was necessary to fit it with a flexible gut driving shaft. The side thrust on the friction pulley caused excessive wear on the friction spindle and excessive replacements were necessary because the constant bending of the drive shaft wore out the inside gut cores.

Constant Research—Development—Progress

About 1900 we made the Stewart Improved Friction Drive Overhead Gear. The friction leather was placed horizontally, square across the face of the driving wheel, and the machine was fitted with the patented universal joint at the top of the drop shaft. This joint permitted the drop shaft to swing about freely and overcame the necessity of using a flexible gut core. The drop shaft was fitted with a steel core throughout—a drop shaft that would give years of service without requiring replacement or repairs.

This new horizontal friction drive was the most advanced shearing gear of its day, but it still had one weakness found in all friction drive machines—when the shearing hand-piece was slowed down or stopped from any cause, the friction leather also stopped revolving, but the large driving wheel continued to revolve, and wore flat, uneven sides on the leather friction wheel. This immediately set up vibration throughout the machine, and also caused slippage and lost power.

Constant research and experimental work was being carried on by the STEWART engineers and experts, and in 1904 we placed on the market the STEWART Patented Enclosed Gear Machine.

Eliminating Slippage and Lost Power

Here was a machine driven by smooth meshing cogs, with absolutely no chance for slippage or lost power or uneven wear, such as existed in the friction driven machine. It still retained the universal joint and solid core shaft, and from that time until a few years ago, the STEWART Enclosed Gear Machine was the favorite machine throughout this country.

Constant Leadership

The final achievement in overhead power transmission for shearing machines is the STEWART Improved Silent Belt Driven Gear. For many years the study of the science of machine shearing by shearing experts has been an integral part of the work of the Chicago Flexible Shaft Company and the branches which have been established in the principal wool growing countries of the world. Credit for originating the STEWART Improved Silent Belt Driven Overhead Gear must be given to the STEWART experts connected with our branch houses in Australia. In that country where approximately a hundred million sheep are shorn annually and shearing is being done in some part of the country throughout the year, our field experts have had unusual opportunities to study sheep shearing and its requirements. It was generally agreed that the ideal overhead power transmission should use a silent belt drive, as used in driving 90 per cent of all the world's power machinery, and while the machine must be strong and powerful, it must necessarily be of a convenient weight to mount on the wall of the average shearing shed.

The first Stewart Patented Belt Driven Machine was placed in use in Australia in 1914. It has several big advantages not found in any other machine. As time went on improvements were made and patented in every wool-growing country in the world. The positive and constant silent drive, free from all uneven wear, vibration, or lost power, made a strong appeal and the STEWART Improved Silent Belt Driven Gear soon took the lead over all other types and makes.

We knew that any gear, to replace the STEWART Enclosed Gear, must have unusual merit. After watching the progress of the Improved Silent Belt Driven Gear through our branches in these other countries, we were convinced it was head and shoulders above any other type of overhead gear made, and in 1923 it was placed on the market in this country.

In less than four years its fame has spread throughout every wool-growing section of the United States, and while we will always be in a position to supply owners of our Enclosed Gear Machine additional units or duplicate parts, we recommend the Stewart Improved Silent Belt Driven Overhead Gear for all installations.

Space does not permit of our covering all the stages of advancement in the shearing hand-piece, one of the vital parts of the complete machine, but improvements in the STEWART hand-piece have kept pace with the improvements in the overhead power transmission; and in each illustration on these pages is shown the hand-piece as it progressed with the overhead gear.

STEWART IMPROVED, SILENT, BELT-DRIVEN SHEARING GEAR

THE MOST SATISFACTORY SHEARING GEAR EVER BUILT

A DISTINCT ADVANCE IN SHEARING MACHINERY

The New Stewart Improved Silent Belt Driven Shearing Gear is of the sturdy, thoroughly practical construction that appeals to both wool growers and shearers.

SILENT, SMOOTH, POSITIVE DRIVE

The Stewart Belt Driven Gear is free from all noise and vibration. The belt is carried half way around the small pulley, insuring a positive, constant, smooth drive. The shear can be put instantly in and out of gear without stopping the overhead shafting.

MORE SHEARING ROOM

The main carrying bracket is strong and sturdy—and stands well out from the wall. The down tube hangs eighteen inches away from the wall, giving the shearer plenty of room for fast shearing. To stop or start his machine, the shearer simply pulls the cord of the shifter weight, which is within easy reach.

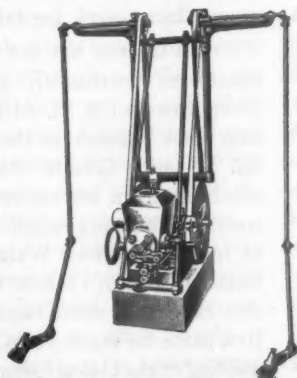
TIGHTEN THE BELT WITHOUT STOPPING THE MACHINE

The pulley frame is adjustable on the main bracket. A simple device enables you to move the pulley frame either backward or forward to give exactly the right tension on the belt without stopping the machines.

LOW UPKEEP COST - BEST PERFORMANCE

Low cost of upkeep and unusual shearing performance—that is the story of the Stewart Improved Silent Belt Driven Gear. It is simple to erect—and once up, will give years of unfailing service with very little attention and practically no cost of upkeep.

IMPROVED LITTLE WONDER Two-Stand Machine



The Stewart Little Wonder is furnished complete with engine, belts, shearing brackets, universal jointed shafts, two Stewart Greyhound wide hand-pieces, four wide combs, twelve

wide cutters and the Little Wonder Grinder together with grinding supplies, cog and bush key, spanner, two screw drivers and two oil cans. This is an ideal machine for flocks numbering 500 to 3000.

STEWART T. L. O. COMB

After a season of actual practical use under many different shearing conditions, the Stewart T. L. O. (Take-Less-Off) Comb has the approval of both sheep men and shearers. In preparation for the 1927 shearing season, Stewart engineers have made further improvements in the T. L. O. The combing length of the teeth has been shortened and the shaping and finish of the points further improved for easier combing and faster shearing.

The T. L. O. No. 1 has a depth of 3/16 inches and is most generally used by those who desire to leave an additional depth of stubble. The T. L. O. No. 2 has a depth of 3/8 inches and is very satisfactory for shearing goats and light woolled sheep.

WORLD'S MOST COMPLETE LINE

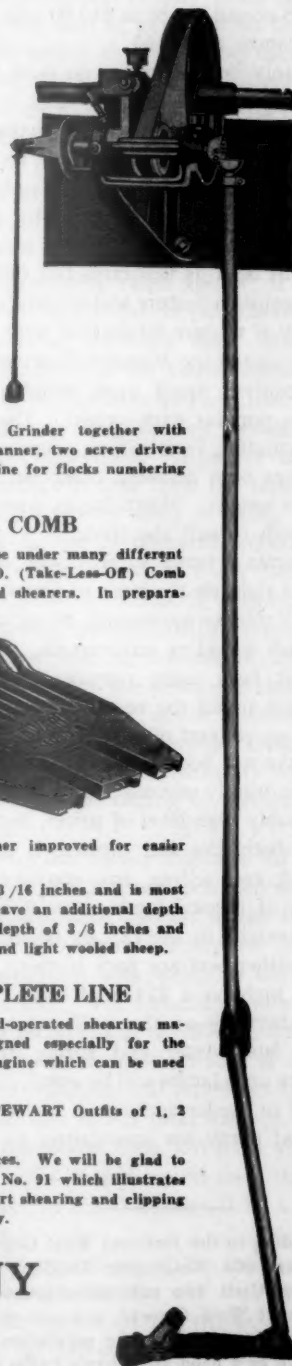
The Stewart line also includes hand-operated shearing machines and engine driven models designed especially for the owner of 12 to 300 sheep who has an engine which can be used for belt driving.

There are also compact portable STEWART Outfits of 1, 2 or 4 machines complete with engines.

Write for complete catalog and prices. We will be glad to send upon request our complete catalog No. 91 which illustrates and describes the complete line of Stewart shearing and clipping machinery. Write for your copy today.

CHICAGO FLEXIBLE SHAFT COMPANY

5600 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois
224 S. W. Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah



DEMAND FOR 1927 FEEDER LAMBS

(Continued from Page 25)

Denver when the top was \$12.90 on 85-pound lambs, \$12.85 was paid for 95-pound stock, \$12.60 for 99-pound and \$12.50 for lambs weighing 102 to 103 pounds. Perusal of Denver sales shows 95 @ 98-pound lambs at \$12.90 and 102-pound lambs at \$12.65.

Certainly heavy lamb is no more popular in distributive channels than a year ago when a lamb weighing over 96 pounds was anathema. This much may be said with respect to the overweight lambs on this occasion: had corn possessed the same feeding value as last winter and weather conditions been as favorable last fall for making gains on pasture and in corn fields, the army of western lambs that went into territory east of the Missouri River would have acquired much more weight and been less popular with weight. The big kick emanating from killing sources this season has been deficient condition; not excessive weight. Many lambs were not fat enough to suit the trade.

California's lamb surplus will move eastward right on the heels of Colorado's output, if the two movements do not overlap, which would be unfortunate. Colorado has been using considerable hay and is not under the necessity of forced loading on account of weight as seasonal gains have not been made. This should insure an orderly movement and maintain a reasonably high level of prices, but the market, both live and dressed, is easily saturated and selling any considerable quantity of dressed lamb above \$25 per hundredweight in the carcass is impossible. Neither beef nor pork is cheap, nor is lamb high on a \$14 hoof basis. All the handwriting on the wall suggests a healthy late winter and spring trade. What new crop lambs will be worth, either on killer or feeder account, is anybody's guess and many are speculating on the subject.

By sending to the National Wool Growers Association, 303 McCornick Building, Salt Lake City, Utah, two new subscriptions to the National Wool Grower, you can secure a very fine knife—either the regulation boy scout knife or a good stockman's knife, both of them Remingtons. The subscription price of the Wool Grower is \$1.50 a year.

PROSPECTS ON OREGON RANGES

The outlook in the Oregon range country is the best in several years. An abundance of snow has fallen in the mountains and is still continuing to fall in late February.

Much of the snow came early and packed solidly, which, of course, insures a maximum water supply as the later snows do not pack, melt easily, and the water is quickly lost. Particularly favorable is the situation along the eastern slopes of the Cascades and in central Oregon. Here the drought has bitten in deeply in recent years, and the long cycle of comparatively dry years which has been experienced has brought about rather distressing conditions. One of these that is a matter of interest throughout central Oregon was the complete drying up of Goose Lake, a body of water approximately forty miles by fifteen miles, extending from near Lakeview down into northern California. This lake became dry in midsummer of 1926, and almost daily clouds of alkali dust swept up the valley, often throughout the city of Lakeview. The evaporating water disclosed a well preserved wagon road, leading straight across one of the deeper parts of the lake, a revelation which strengthened the stories handed down that this region was very dry for several years in the early 'Fifties', and emigrants drove across the lake bed en route to the California mines. Six years later, this entire region was overflowing with water. The lake was full, the rivers and creeks were over the banks, grass waved saddle high—a condition which prevailed when the early settlers took up their abode in Lake County and established the first cattle ranges. Stockmen hope that the heavy snows and copious rains of the present winter are ushering in another cycle of wet years in order that history may repeat itself to a degree in the stock business of Lake County and adjoining districts.

There is more snow in the Blue Mountains than in recent seasons past, but the snowfall there can probably be best described as a good snowfall, rather than an extra good one.

All over the Oregon range country, there has been heavy rainfall during the fall and winter months, and the pastures and ranges have been thoroughly saturated. The wheat crop in the Columbia Basin adjacent to the grazing country is in a flourishing condition as there was little loss from freezing, and that mainly where it is the custom to sow spring wheat in the fall and trust to luck. Hay supplies have been ample at reasonable prices, \$8.00 having been about the going price throughout eastern Oregon, with slight variations in a few of the valleys.

Lambing is just under way in the Blue Mountain country. A very good percentage has been reported from farm flocks which are well lambled out. In central Oregon, the lamb crop comes on a little later, but a good percentage is anticipated in view of the favorable feeding conditions of the past winter. During the fall and early winter there was, as everywhere, an active demand for ewes and for farm flocks. The price was up, but probably not too high for the enterprise in question, as a farmer can afford to pay a pretty fair price for fifty to a hundred ewes if he intends to run the farm flock permanently as a part of his general undertaking.

There does not seem to be much haste at this writing in the matter of contracting lambs and wool. A few wool contracts at about thirty cents are talked of.

Union County has not heretofore been considered particularly prominent as a sheep county. S. E. Miller, one of the best flock masters in the state, operates out of Union County but has been very much alone in his enterprise. This situation is changing rapidly. On the farm of former Governor Walter M. Pierce is found a flock of 1,000 or more ewes. On this ranch the white-faced calf has held first place for many years. At the recent meeting of the Union County wool growers called by County Agent H. G. Avery, invitations were sent to owners of 32,000 sheep, and owners of 20,000 sheep were present. Incidentally, the result of the meeting was the organization of the Union County Wool Growers Association with Mr. Miller as president.

F. L. Ballard.

FINANCING THE MARKETING OF WOOL

By Thomas A. Marlow, President, National Bank of Montana

An Address Delivered before the 1927 Convention of The National Wool Growers Association at Butte, Montana

Your officers have been kind enough to ask me to make some remarks regarding the orderly co-operative marketing of wool. This is both an interesting and a difficult subject. Difficult for the reason that it has been discussed, argued, and talked over by so many people interested in it over so long a period that it is hard to add anything that is new or informative upon it.

Since the deflation period in the country began in 1920, we have had two subjects which are somewhat like the game laws, to wit; there has always been an open season upon them. First, there is the question of Federal aid generally, and more lately, the question of Federal farm aid. With the first of these questions, the one of orderly co-operative marketing has been always closely related. Many of the best minds in the country have contended through all these discussions that it was better for the business and agricultural interests of the country to organize and finance themselves, than to ask for government assistance.

I do not propose to go into a discussion of this question, but now that Montana seems to have passed the crisis in this phase of its affairs, I do feel that a very brief resume of what has been accomplished in this state since 1920 by the various agencies, government and otherwise, that have been in operation during this period, may be interesting and informative, before I take up directly the subject of co-operative wool marketing.

Four agencies have been used: First, the Federal Reserve Bank, which, while not owned and operated by the government, in the minds of most people, is rather looked upon as a government agency. This institution, of course, was in operation before the deflation period in 1920 set in, but upon August 31, 1921, it reached a peak of loans in Montana of \$13,601,252.44.

Second, the War Finance Corporation, a purely governmental agency, organized

and put into operation to relieve the condition which the country seemed to be rapidly approaching. This agency began operations in Montana in the month of September, 1921, and between that time and the closing of its business in January, 1926, loaned the banks, live-stock associations, and co-operative organizations, \$13,370,047.15.

Third, the Montana Livestock Finance Corporation, which was organized with a capital stock of \$250,000 in November, 1921. This organization reached a peak of loans of \$2,800,000 in October, 1923, made mainly in large sums to the larger live-stock operators of the state, both sheep and cattle.

Fourth, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, which followed the War Finance Corporation, and while government-owned and operated, is a permanent institution, and is bidding fair today to be of very large and wide-spreading value. As an illustration of the ability of the State of Montana to come back from under the burden of the enormous amount of debts, as above stated, aggregating at a peak between the three agencies named of \$29,771,299.59, I would say briefly that upon November 30th, last, the Federal Reserve Bank had outstanding but the sum of \$453,564.09, the War Finance Corporation the sum of \$371,769.28, the Montana Livestock Finance Corporation the sum of \$564,000, or a total outstanding of \$1,389,333.37.

My estimate of the losses which will ultimately be incurred by the first two agencies will not exceed \$350,000.00.

As to the Montana Livestock Finance Corporation, it has been able to return to its shareholders the entire amount of capital originally invested in it. It has never lost a dollar, has never had a foreclosure or a law suit, and is not the owner of a troublesome loan at the present time. The small amount of loans owned by it at the present time is a striking demonstration of the financial solidity of the

live-stock industry of the state today, and its organization is only being continued with the idea of having it on hand as a useful agency should reverses occur in the future in the live-stock industry.

To my mind, the most useful of all the above agencies at the present time, so far as the future orderly marketing of wool or other commodities is concerned, is the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank. As I have stated before, while this is a government-operated agency, it was organized largely for the purpose of making seasonable advances upon agricultural commodities of all kinds, including live stock, to facilitate and aid their orderly marketing by providing reasonable advances upon them. It has so far proven exceptionally free from red tape, of difficulties of any kind in doing business with it, and is operated smoothly and successfully. This is today the agency through which properly organized wool marketing associations can conduct their business without trouble or difficulty, coupled with the certainty that forced sales of products, which heretofore have been known as "distress" commodities, would not be made necessary by undue, or unforeseen calling of advances upon them.

With this agency available for securing reasonable advances upon their wool clips, Montana wool growers in the month of July, 1923, proceeded to effect the proper organization with which to obtain such assistance. The association now consists of a membership of 707 growers, which constitutes about 30 per cent of the growers of the state, and represents fully that percentage of the total tonnage of wool. Its operations thus far have proven so successful that it would seem that every grower in the state should be a member of it.

The operations of the association are exceedingly simple. All that is required of the grower is the market agreement and his bill-of-lading. The association

is organized without capital, and up to the present time has never assessed its members, nor their wool, for anything more than the nominal \$1.00 per year dues and six per cent per annum interest on the money advanced them upon their clips. The men serving as directors of the association have done so for no selfish purpose. No compensation of any kind has been paid to them, and as a rule, the advances which the association has been able to secure were not needed by any of the directors themselves. They have served in that capacity solely for the good of the industry, and while the most of them have not needed advances upon their own wool, they have recognized that hundreds of other growers do need them, and that the industry as a whole is well served by affording it a means whereby it will not be compelled to dump its wool on the market, or consign it to speculative dealers in the East. Since its organization, it has advanced to the growers of Montana \$2,250,000, and has handled 9,500,000 pounds of wool. It has never had to sell a pound of wool against the wishes of the grower.

At the outset, it was generally felt that this marketing association would be a good means for financing small clips, but for various reasons would not be the thing for large growers. Four years of experience have changed this sentiment, and it is now recognized that it is quite as good a method of financing the large as the small clips. Clips of all sizes, ranging from as low as 88 pounds to as high as 239,000 pounds were included in last year's shipments, with covering advances on the same ranging all the way from \$20.00 to the smallest shipper to \$50,200 to the largest.

To make a scheme as above described really effective, it was obviously necessary for the growers to have a properly organized selling agency of their own, managed, controlled, and directed by themselves. An effort along this line had been made a number of years before, led by Montana growers, in the organization of the National Wool Warehouse & Storage Company, located in Chicago, and owned mainly by Montana and Wyoming growers. As a selling agency, it was successful, and of great value to the growers who patron-

ized it, but a fatal mistake in its management, to wit, borrowing money in the open market and advancing it upon wool consignments based upon competitive marketing, led it to making over-advances in the year 1920, which wrecked it financially. This experience proved conclusively that a marketing organization controlled by growers should never indulge in making advances upon wool consigned to it.

In order to facilitate proper marketing, and to co-operate with the wool marketing association, a new selling agency was organized in the month of February, 1925, known as the National Wool Exchange. This institution has paid-up capital of \$90,350.00, (which readily can be increased as needed), provided largely by the wool growers of Montana and Wyoming. After mature thought and discussion, it was deemed wise to locate it in Boston, the real center of the wool trade in the United States, instead of Chicago.

The basic idea of this organization was that under no circumstances was it ever to borrow funds to advance to consignors, but to promote as far as possible the organization of state co-operative marketing associations, to secure the advances needed through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, or other available banking agencies, as above outlined. It has now been successfully operated for two seasons, and it is my firm belief that the wool growers of the Northwest have in it a grower-owned, capably managed, selling organization that can always procure for their product as good a price as the market will justify. This is all that any grower can ask or expect.

I have, since 1920, given much serious thought, and some time, to this whole problem of organized marketing in the wool industry, without during the entire period, being interested in it as an owner or grower, and it is my firm conviction that the growers of the State of Montana, with the two organizations above described, are in the most advantageous position today, in so far as the marketing of their wool is concerned, of any state in the Union. I am further thoroughly convinced that had we no such agencies as the two above described, the product of the wool grower in this

state would not bring within five cents per pound of what he is securing today. Montana has made, I think, more substantial progress in effecting the above organizations than any of our other sheep growing states, and every grower of the state, large or small, who is not a member of the Montana Wool Co-operative Marketing Association should be one. It imposes no obligations in membership, other than a \$1.00 fee. It does not compel him to consign his wool to the selling agency, but it makes him a member of an organized co-operative body for offensive and defensive purposes.

Montana has blazed the way in this enterprise and shown the other growers, particularly of the West, that when there is the will to do constructive things, and the necessary push put behind them, they can be done, and if the growers in the other western states do not follow the example that has been set, in my judgment, they are simply "asleep at the switch" and too indifferent or careless to organize to protect their own interests.

The growers of citrus and deciduous fruits in California, of rice in California and Louisiana, and many other agricultural commodities, which involve much larger amounts in dollars than the wool industry of the country does, are thoroughly organized under the co-operative selling plan, and secure prices for their products which are producing profits. The producer in these lines today is naming the price instead of the purchaser. There is no good reason why the wool grower, if he will follow the same line of procedure, cannot do the same thing, keeping in mind, of course, the fact that we produce little more than one-half of the wool which we consume in this country, and, of course, our price is thereby to a certain extent controlled by the balance of the world's production.

It is a very trite statement to repeat, that "in union there is strength", but up to the present time the wool grower has not seemed to pay a great deal of attention to it. I am earnestly, and hopefully, believing that a start has been made, and that the sheepman will wake up and begin to take the same commonsense care of his business, as many other producers in the country have already done.

New Mexico Convention of Wool Growers, Cattlemen, and Legislators

The annual convention of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association convened at Albuquerque, New Mexico, on February 9th and closed on the 10th. The meetings on the first day were held conjointly with the cattlemen of the state, but the second day was given over entirely to sheepmen's affairs. According to the reports it was the largest convention held in several years and was noteworthy particularly on account of the very great increase in optimism and enthusiasm. The state legislature adjourned to allow its members to meet the stockmen.

President Hagenbarth, who represented the National Wool Growers Association, spoke before the joint session of cattle and sheepmen on the afternoon of the first day. The doctrine of organization was expounded very forcefully. He declared that while "even the bootblacks and the city newsboys are organized, the wool growers remain the great individualists of the nation" against which individualism all the economic odds lie. Wool buyers and manufacturers, he pointed out, had changed their methods of buying and selling to meet present-day economic conditions and wool growers must cast aside their old practices in selling and adopt the more orderly ones that are now imperative.

He urged most forcefully that the New Mexico growers strengthen their state organization and increase their support of the National Association. The keen appreciation and interest shown in Mr. Hagenbarth's address indicate that great good will result therefrom.

Both President David Farr of the New Mexico Wool Growers Association and Mr. W. R. Morley of Datil, New Mexico, attended the convention of the National Association at Butte and the grazing conference with Secretary Jardine in Salt Lake, and Mr. Morley reported the results of the conference to New Mexico stockmen at the first day's meeting. He stated that while practically all of the



David Farr, President New Mexico Wool Growers Association

men who were selected to represent the cattle and sheep interests at the conference were opposed to both the Rachford and Casement reports, they felt that the decision rendered by Secretary Jardine was the best that could be obtained under the circumstances.

President Farr's address to the sheepmen opened the second day's program. A very encouraging report of the past year's work was given, membership having been increased by 250 per cent and finances of the association being in better condition than for many years past. Continued support of the National Wool Growers Association by New Mexico sheepmen was urged by President Farr. He also suggested the appointment of four vice-presidents, instead of one, for the state organization. He also spoke of support to be given by the state association to the bill calling for the appropriation of 50,000 acres of the public domain for the use of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of New

Mexico for grazing and other live stock experimental work. Criticism was made by Mr. Farr of certain practices that have existed in connection with the State Sheep Sanitary Board. He declared that while one board might build up a surplus fund, its successor was apt to run through such money very rapidly and not entirely for the benefit of the sheepmen. As a remedy for this evil he suggested that action be taken to secure the appointment to the board of practical sheepmen who have real business ability. The convention's reactions to Mr. Farr's suggestions are contained in the resolutions adopted.

Other speakers at the New Mexico convention included President H. L. Kent of the A. & M. College, who told of the stockman's need of information pertaining to his industry and of the efforts of the state college to furnish it; Max I. Koshland of San Francisco; Governor Richard Dillon, Mayor Clyde Tingley; E. L. Moulton of Albuquerque, state land commissioner; Dr. A. D. Crile of Roswell; and Kenneth D. Oliver of the Pacific National Agricultural Credit Company.

Mr. Farr was re-elected president of the New Mexico organization, and the following vice-presidents were selected: Floyd W. Lee, Albuquerque; A. E. Ingham, Roswell; Sylvestre Mirabel, San Rafael; and M. A. Gonzales, Abiqui. Miss Bertha Benson continues as secretary-treasurer.

Resolutions

The resolutions adopted by the New Mexico wool growers recommended that the state law be amended to permit the New Mexico Wool Growers Association to present to the governor a list of twenty names of practical sheepmen from which the governor will select five to serve as members of the State Sheep Sanitary Board; urged that Congress pass a law providing for the leasing of the public domain on an acreage basis, the fees charged therefor not to exceed the cost of administration plus 25 per cent for state and county school funds; asked for legislation by Congress that will permit the purchase of 640-acre tracts of isolated grazing land with the minimum price per acre fifty cents, such land to be added to the taxable property of the states in which it is located; urged the passage by the state legislature of an abandoned horse law, similar to that in force in Montana;

sought a change in the tax laws that will place in the hands of the tax commission the authority to fix the definite classes of live stock and grazing lands; suggested to the incoming Sheep Sanitary Board that arrangements be made with the Texas Sanitary Commission whereby sheep coming from clean and unexposed territory in New Mexico will be permitted to enter Texas without being dipped when accompanied by a health certificate from the Bureau of Animal Industry; urged that the inspection fee charged upon shipments of sheep be increased to provide sufficient funds for the operation of the Sheep Sanitary Board and that the special tax levied on sheep and goats for such purpose be discontinued; endorsed the work of the state wool marketing committee and commended them for the pro-

gress made toward the establishment of a wool concentration point in New Mexico; supported the effort of the National Wool Growers Association to collect a fund through the railroads for the promotion of lamb consumption; thanked New Mexico congressmen and senators for their efforts in securing the passage of a bill granting certain sections of the public domain to the Agricultural and Mechanical College of New Mexico to be used for experimental work in range live stock; endorsed the work of the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Biological Survey, and the National Live Stock and Meat Board; and thanked Secretary Jardine for his courtesy in attending the grazing conference, and all those who had helped to make the convention a success.

makes necessary a good deal of common action in respect to handling of stray sheep, coyote control and similar matters. The annual discussions seldom fail to bring out criticism or suggestions in respect to the past year's undertakings. For some years it has been the custom of the organization to employ 'stray pullers' to remove stray sheep from the bands of the members and deliver them to the rightful owners. Considerable objection was expressed regarding the actions of these employees during last year and after protracted discussions it was requested that the executive committee should discontinue employing men to handle the strays on a per head basis and that further steps should be taken to remove some abuses which it was believed had occurred in some cases.

The U. S. Biological Survey was represented by C. J. Beyer in charge of the Wyoming district. As usual the work of the government trappers and poisoners received extended comment from its supervisors and from others. The principal point of discussion was found in the apparent reluctance of the Biological Survey to furnish its process poison material for use by individual sheep owners. An agreeable understanding was reached on this point.

Other addresses were delivered during the course of the convention by Mr. Matt Staff, Boston, representative of the National Wool Exchange; the secretary of the National Wool Growers Association, District Forester R. H. Rutledge, Supervisor C. E. Favre, and County Assessor Rosenberg.

The principal question before the Forest Advisory Board was the application for increase in grazing permits by a number of Class A sheepmen who claim that a larger number of sheep could be grazed on their present allotments and also urged that other permittees should agree to reductions in order to allow the increases asked. The Supervisor had apparently taken no action on the matter, though he stated that under the agreement contained in the ten-year permits issued in 1925 no reductions could be made in such permits for range distribution prior to 1930. It also was recognized that admission of new stock in a good season might be pos-

Lincoln County Wool Growers' Convention

Wool growers of Lincoln County, Wyoming, held their twenty-first annual convention at Kemmerer on February 28, March 1 and 2. The meeting had been planned for two days, but the number of business matters coming up for consideration necessitated the session of Wednesday forenoon.

Members in attendance were also anxious to attend the appeal proceedings scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Hearings had been called by the Forest Service before the Board of Grazing Appeals of the Bridger-Wyoming forests in connection with applications of cattle-owning permittees to place sheep upon their allotments. The hearing is reported elsewhere in this issue.

About fifty members residing in or owning sheep grazed in Lincoln County during part of the year were present. These members represented about 250,000 sheep, most of which are grazed in the summer upon Wyoming national forests. In its meetings the association discussed numerous business questions affecting its membership, and the work of the advisory board in respect to forest matters is conducted openly with the membership.

The work and record of the Lincoln County Association forms a striking example of service to be obtained through local organizations. Possibly few counties have the same need or opportunity for association effort as obtain in Lincoln County, but if even a fraction of the business done in this case could be handled for other locals, now without or-

ganization, it would greatly benefit those engaged in the sheep business who are not now associated with any local organization.

Wool growers of Lincoln County are quite large users of the public domain. They are practically unanimous and also somewhat militant in their opposition to any new steps looking toward any form of regulation of such grazing by any department of the government. A visitor in Wyoming cannot escape recognition of the fact that stockmen of that state are thoroughly united and prepared in their opposition to public domain control. Through their legislature they have taken a new step in calling for the surrendering of public domain lands to the states in which they lie. This action has been actively advocated by State Senator P. W. Jenkins who was present at the convention and whose address on this subject, delivered at the Monday evening banquet, was received with great enthusiasm.

President J. D. Noblitt has for many years presided over the association affairs and sessions and was elected to continue in that office. The Lincoln County conventions are unique in the way they are conducted. About one half of the time of the sessions is devoted to listening to talks by invited speakers, the other half of the time is occupied by round table discussions of matters of mutual interest and concern, the discussions being led and directed by the President. The large number of sheep represented by the members and grazed in proximity to each other during the large part of the year

sible without reductions, but its continuation on the forests in less favorable seasons might probably require a general reduction for range protection which would in effect be making a cut for distribution. It appeared to be the understanding of the board that only such increases would be granted as could be taken care of without requiring later cuts in the outstanding ten-year permits.

Professor A. F. Vass of the University of Wyoming presented the summary of one of the most complete and illuminating cost studies that has yet been made for sheepmen. His study, which was principally based on 1925 operations, included records of sixty-five concerns running one-half million sheep. Forty-eight operators included were national forest permittees and all were users of the desert range in winter. Prof. Vass's figures are especially valuable and interesting in that they show for each concern the actual operation cost and rate of returns under fourteen different headings, such as labor, supplies, taxes, interest, etc. The rate of net returns on investments in 1925 varied from as high as 40 per cent in the case of one concern having 90 per cent of its investment in sheep to minus 15 per cent at the other extreme. In all cases 8 per cent interest on actual investments was charged as a regular cost of operation. The full details of the entire study are to be made available in bulletin form in the near future and will later be discussed in greater detail in the Wool Grower.

Regular resolutions passed included the statement of opposition to the basis of increased grazing fees as announced by the Department of Agriculture to take effect in 1928; request for cooperation from the Forest Service with permittees in arranging reduced or deferred grazing allotments in order to improve the forage and without causing a reduction in the number regularly covered in the permit; request of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to discontinue publishing any statements "of the judgment of the department employees as to future prices on lambs and wool"; request of the State Game Department to allot funds for use in cooperation with the Biological Survey

to eradicate coyotes which are injurious to sheep and to wild game.

Officers elected for the coming year were as follows: President J. D. Noblitt, vice-president Vincent Bennion; members of the executive committee J. H. Stoner, Clarence Linden, A. A. Covey, Ed. Brandley and L. K. Olson.

RAMBOUILLET ADVANCED REGISTRATION

One of the most important questions up for discussion at the annual meeting of the American Rambouillet Breeders Association held during the International at Chicago was the adoption of uniform regulations for the advanced registry of Rambouillet sheep, which is now being carried on in Utah, California, Michigan, and Texas. A committee composed of Robert F. Miller of the University of California, E. Ray Lyman of the Branch Agricultural College of Utah, and George A. Brown of the Michigan Agricultural College, was appointed at the 1925 meeting of the association to draw up a set of rules for this work. The report of this committee called for the establishment of a National Advanced Registry by the American Rambouillet Breeders Association and suggested certain uniform regulations to be followed.

The discussion of the report brought forth general approval of the principle of advanced registration, but many objections against the adoption of uniform rules for its operation. Mr. J. H. King of Wyoming said it was hardly fair that sheep run on the range where weather conditions may cause a variation in shrinkage of from five to ten per cent from one season to another should have to compete with sheep handled entirely on farms. Mr. Moore of Michigan was of the opinion that conditions in the various states were so different that it would be very difficult to set up rules that would apply in each case and moved that the records kept by the advanced registries of the various states should be endorsed by the American Rambouillet Breeders Association. Strong objection was registered against the idea of accepting the state records. Mr. Lusch of the Texas Experiment Station declared that in his

judgment the work was still in an experimental stage and needed to be simplified before a national advanced registry should be set up.

As finally decided the American Rambouillet Breeders Association is limited at present merely to the endorsement and encouragement of the work that has been started in the different states.

MEETING OF AMERICAN AND DELAINE MERINO RECORD ASSOCIATION

The twenty-first annual meeting of the American and Delaine Merino Record Association was held at Columbus, Ohio, January 12, 1927. A larger attendance than at previous meetings was recorded. Reports of association work during the past year were approved and decision made to continue along the same lines. A committee appointed last year to investigate the record of merit system now in use in Michigan made a favorable report and the association concluded to put such a system into effect in its organization and instructed the committee to formulate the necessary rules.

The officers elected for 1927 include: Geo. W. Deeds, Pataskla, Ohio, president; J. R. Brandon, Lampasas, Texas, vice-president; Gowdy Williamson, Xenia, Ohio, secretary-treasurer.

DATES FOR TEXAS CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

At its second quarterly meeting, held at Ozona, February 10, the executive committee of the Sheep and Goat Raisers Association of Texas decided that the 1927 convention of their organization should take place at Kerrville on July 19, 20 and 21.

Legislative and other matters were also considered by the committee and resolutions were passed urging upon the state legislature the appropriation of a fund for the erection of an exhibition building at the Texas Experiment Station and the purchase of two sections of land adjoining the station to increase its facilities for the study of range live-stock problems.

LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL

New York City,
March, 1927.
Dear Ern:

We had one humdinger of a show, although I had a heck of a time finding a mate for Dolores. There was plenty of good looking girls, but none of 'em could have entertained more than about one man, whereas we had to amuse a thousand. You'd hardly believe, Ern, what a job it is to find a girl that's intellectual, elastic, and good looking at the same time. I put in almost the whole day with blondes and brunettes and auburns, but whenever I'd single one out and ask her what she could do best, it'd seem every time like she'd get to feeling conscious of her sex, and I had to quit. Finally I got desperate and hired a fifteen year old news-boy. By golly, Ern, when I took him to a barber and had his eyebrows plucked and hair marcelled, and got him powdered and painted up he made a magnificent maiden. And when I put him into a seventy-five dollar dress he became well nigh irresistible. I named him Tomasa, the Beautiful Egyptian.

In one of our acts Dolores dances around the stage and kicks at a set of bells about six feet above the floor. Tomasa'd follow Dolores and try to imitate her stunt; most of the time he'd either miss, or he'd kick the wrong bell; then, just about the time you figured that he had no ear for music he'd kick the right one and keep the time agoing. Tomasa sure made a hit. He almost made Dolores jealous until she tumbled onto the cam-oflage. I'd put some stuff on his eyelashes so they stuck straight out, and his blue eyes took on a hazy shine as would stop your watch clear across the hall. He'd gathered a slight touch of melancholic sadness—I think he was sick because he wasn't a real girl—he'd began to see possibilities.

Well, sir, after the very first act, there was flowers and candy sent to his room with little notes, trying to make a date. Most of 'em had R. S. V. P. wrote in the corner. That's a French expression and means "Come out into the garden Maud." It's a polite insinuation that the

sender is deep in love and willing to stand the price of taxis, dinners, and theatre tickets. That's what made Tomasa so sad—here he'd been in New York all his sweet life, thankful to have the price of a bowl of noodles, when—if he'd only taken more after his mother he could have been having a swell time.

Anyway, there was one note came as looked like ready money. It came with a fifteen dollar bouquet of American Beauties and I began to sit up and take notice. Out in front the crowd was applauding Dolores and Tomasa's wheelbarrow stunt—that was another hit—with the men going more daffy over Tomasa every minute. I knew I'd soon lose him anyway, and as I'd just took a long shot at this show business in order to get off that ship, I let this fellow come up to Tomasa's dressing room to give him a talk.

He wore a shirt boiled both ways from the middle and a collapsible stovepipe hat. "You look like a honest man's son," says I to him. "Now this Tomasa maiden was left under my care by her dying uncle, who made me promise to be a brother to her. It's been a terrific strain on me all these years, but I figure now that I've made good. I'm proud of you, as I'm fond of her. You'll find Tomasa has a fine character. Trouble right now is that she just got off a steamer and we didn't have quite enough money to pay the duty on her diamonds. If you would help her out—seeing as how you've took a honest liking to her—I don't know but what I'd let you. Then you two can work out your own destiny."

He jumped at the chance, called me a deah fellah, and forked over the cash. Then there was our gate receipts, which our share amounted to six hundred dollars. Take and add it up, and it wasn't bad for the first night.

That wasn't all. We wasn't hardly through when a fellow by the name of Ziegfeld came and wanted to buy the show. He offered ten thousand a year royalty for the name—The Egyptian Daughters—and our main two acts. That was the one with the bells, and one other act we called Evolution. The Governor of Tennessee wired that we dassn't show that act in his state—but this man Zieg-

feld didn't mind. In that act we took our monkey and let him go on the stage, picking fleas off himself. The idee is, you know, that the monkey promotes this show we call the Human Race. Then he goes off stage and I follow, draped in a large skin, walking upright, but wearing a five foot flexible tail. Next time I come along I carry the tail under my arm, and once more, when I walk across the stage, the tail is missing altogether. Then follows the Democrat, also minus any tail, but with a bottle of bootleg in his hip pocket. That brought down the house, and also that telegram from the Tennessee Governor.

Well, as I was telling you, this man Ziegfeld was camping on my trail with a fountain pen and a check book on the First National, so I decided to sell. Thought struck me about Tomasa that way. Maybe I hadn't yet worked him to the limit. I offered him to Ziegfeld, but he got sore and called me a road agent, and almost insinuated that I wasn't as honest as I natcherally look. The way he talked I got peeved and sent him to deal with Dolores—it was her layout anyway.

A little later Dolores sent for me. She'd got along fine with Ziegfeld and her table was stacked up with three thousand dollars advance royalties. I took a thousand and called it square. If they keep Tomasa's lips red and his eyebrows plucked and train him to modulate his voice, I don't know but what they've got something just as good as a high priced actress. The last I saw of him that night he and his admirer was headed for Delmonico's—that's a fancy down-town restaurant. I got quite a scare next morning though, when I read where they'd found a young woman with her head cut off. But the police station told me over the 'phone that it was a real woman, so I reckon Tomasa explained his way out. I hope he had a good dinner. Well, Ern, I got to close, so no more for this time from,

Your friend and pal,
Richard A. Wormwood

P. S. I just hear that that dude swore out a warrant for me for obtaining money under false pretense. A lawyer told me not to worry, that they can't put me in jail for that. He says you can't pretend that a boy is a girl, that it'd violate human imagination. But I feel out of place here. I'm too old-fashioned and too modest for this local gang, so I've got a ticket to Salt Lake City.

R. A. W.

THE WOOL SACK

THE BOSTON WOOL MARKET

Contracting on a very large scale has continued to be the outstanding feature of the domestic wool situation. As usual, estimates vary greatly as to the volume of contracts completed at any given date, the figures given out by active operators around the first of March running from 60,000,000 to 75,000,000 pounds, with the weight of the opinion inclining to 70,000,000 pounds as nearer the correct figure. Contracting has been quite general during the past month in the western group of range states, and is still going on, though possibly with a material slackening in the movement as March opens.

Estimates of the contracts to date in Texas run as high as 10,000,000 pounds, practically all twelve-months' wool, very little having been done in eight-months' clips. Though some in the trade are disposed to question the higher figure, there seems to be no reasonable doubt that something over 9,000,000 pounds of long-stapled fine wool, claimed to be as good as any in the state is out of growers' control. Summer Street says that practically all the independent clips have been contracted. If there are any that have not yet been tied up, it is believed to be on account of the price ideas of the growers, rather than lack of initiative on the part of eastern buyers.

Further large operations in that state must wait for the sealed bid sales at Kerrville and other big concentration points, as the eight-months' wool is not attracting much attention at the moment. The next move in the game may possibly be an effort on the part of the eastern buyers to transfer their contracts to the mills on a small fixed margin of profit. Many rumors are flying up and down Summer Street regarding the possibility of such action in regard to both Texas and Territory contracts. It is whispered, and not strenuously denied, that the mill buyer who is willing to take over some of these contracts on the basis of an advance of two cents a pound to the dealer, can get

a big weight of wool without any difficulty.

Dealers are claiming that contracting in the Far West is now over the peak. All the big operators have secured big blocks of desirable wool, and undoubtedly are glad of a little breathing spell. In fact, some of the buyers are returning home, but this by no means indicates a complete dismantling of the various buying organizations in the western field. On the contrary, reports are coming in daily from widely separated sections of clips being brought under contract. Wherever the grower is willing to accept current prices there appears to be no difficulty in finding a purchaser. Buyers, however, are looking askance at all efforts to advance prices.

Contract prices have been recently edging up a little all over the range country. Some of the recent high prices paid are said to have been dictated by a desire to get the wool shipped East at an early date, the buyers even going so far as to insist that shearing shall come before lambing. As high as 38 cents has been recently paid in Montana, and that appears to be the top of the market in that state at the moment. In other sections, especially for the best medium wools, 33 cents has been repeatedly fractionally topped. Usually where the buyers have paid extreme prices, they are claiming that they have been able to make a selection of the really "creamy" clips. In fact, that claim is heard as an explanation of justification of the extent of the contracting this year, also regarding the early date at which the movement was started.

Some buyers would have the trade believe that they have been able to skip all over the western range country, pick out the best clips open for contract, and reject all the less desirable. Those who have had experience in western buying say that it is a most difficult thing to go into any given section and pick out a few choice clips, and then get out again without being forced to take over any of the heavy and undesirable clips. What

is particularly claimed this year is that an intelligent effort has been made to operate most extensively in sections where previous experience or current conditions give promise of sound and well-grown wool or light shrinkages. This is manifestly a difficult thing to do in such a sweeping contracting movement as has been going on since the middle of January.

Summer Street is saying that now that everybody has secured a good volume of wool, enough, at least, to make up for the known deficiency in Boston stocks, it will be well to let things cool down a little before resuming operations on a large scale, perhaps until shearing time. It is hinted that the real reason for the slackening of operations is that most of the growers who are willing to contract have been approached or their clips taken over. With some exceptions, possibly in certain sections where little has yet been done, most of the growers whose wools remain unsold must be approached by persuasive argument, or by the more potent inducement of a higher bid.

Constant pressure is being exerted from this end of the line, both by manufacturers and dealers to hold down prices in the West. Recent advances established here and there in western primary markets are regarded by many as being over the danger line. Attention is being persistently called to the fact that in spite of strong and advancing markets abroad, domestic wool quotations in the Boston market are practically unchanged from those which prevailed around the opening of the year.

It seems a strange thing that while Australian and South American markets have been advancing, with the season rapidly drawing to a close in all Antipodal markets, and American buyers there taking less than one-half their usual quota of wool, owners of domestic wool here should have been willing to accept such low prices for their holdings. If there is any recent development that seems to be clearly defined to the observer, it is that American manufacturers must rely upon the domestic wool clip to an

unusual extent this year. That being the case, why this eagerness to sacrifice holdings of old clip wool, or turn over at a nominal profit new contracts of wool that really enter into competition with the best Merinos from Australia or fine crossbreds from Uruguay?

It may be true, as many assert, that the key to the situation is still held in the New York goods market, and that manufacturers are being forced to keep their purchases of wool within certain price limits. Certainly, that is the attitude taken by all mill buyers today. They are looking for desirable wools that can be bought at a certain fixed price, as near a dollar clean as possible. At the same time, the situation in Summer Street, especially as regards the available supply of foreign wools, is much less favorable for low prices than it was a year ago. Stocks of desirable grades have been greatly reduced. There has been in particular substantial relief from the great pressure of South American grades, something which has constituted a menace to the market for several years.

Yet it must be said that even the most sanguine of wool men are not looking for a material advance in prices in the near future. Conditions of buying and selling in the goods trade, promptly reflected in the demand for wool, are not favorable to anything more than moderate price fluctuations. Sacrifice sales of old clip wools, the haste to make a turnover of the new contracts, and the promptness with which arriving lots of foreign wool are sold at any possible profit, all point in the same direction. Prices of domestic wools have remained on practically the same level for nearly a year, with the exception of the moderate bulge in values last fall. This came as scheduled in October and November, when top prices for the clip were quoted.

In quoting prices in the Boston market today, it is necessary to remember that stocks of Territory wool in dealers' hands are very much depleted. With some notable exceptions, the selection that can be offered is very much less desirable than mill buyers like to see. Therefore, it is possible to be misled by reports of very low prices being paid for this or that lot of wool. In the range of this article an

effort is made to quote standard sorts, making due allowance for such lots as may be considered less desirable.

The American Woolen Company is reported to have made something approaching a cleanup of quarter-blood wools during the past month, taking over big blocks, available stocks considered, of both fleeces and Territories. It is claimed that 80 cents clean was freely paid by various buyers for Territory quarter-bloods, and that the market quotation has now been firmly established at 80 to 82 cents. Another report is that the big company took over several hundred thousand pounds of fleece quarter-blood combing wool, for which 43 and 43½ cents in the grease was paid. Current lots, possibly somewhat more desirable, are held firmly at 44 cents flat, but no recent sales at that figure are reported.

Similar strength, though not quite as much activity, is noted in the market for three-eighths-blood Territory wools. Desirable lots of this grade are now firmly held at 90 to 92 cents, and sales are noted recently at or above 90 cents. There is quite a demand for low quarter-bloods, but this grade is well cleared, and even the inducement of strong and advancing prices fails to bring out any sizable weight.

Very little change is noted in price or demand for the finer grades of Territory wool for the month. Really choice fine and fine medium staple wool remains scarce, and such desirable lots as are available are firmly held at \$1.10 to \$1.12 clean, with average lots at \$1.08 or possibly a little less. Good French combing wool remains in steady demand, and wools of good character and even staple continue to sell at \$1.05 to \$1.08. Average and inferior wools sell down to the dollar mark, and even less if on the short staple side. Half-blood staple Territory appears to be well cleared in this market lately, and prices are very firmly held, possibly a bit higher, at \$1 to \$1.03 clean.

The available supply of fine wools in local dealers' hands is so much reduced that they are turning their attention to the early shorn wools in the West, especially to Arizona, where the season is just getting underway. Shearing has

been delayed in that state on account of unfavorable weather, and comparatively little has been done to date. A few clips have been sold and an occasional clip consigned, but the growers have taken a very firm attitude and are asking more than dealers are willing to pay. One clip, said to be very light, has been sold to a Boston house for 37 cents, which is an extreme price. It is suggested that this was bought for a mill, hence the high figure paid.

The position of fine grades of Ohio and similar fleece wools is very little changed. Choice delaine wools are still quoted within the range of 45 to 46 cents, and sales have been made during the month at both figures, and also at 45½ cents. Half-blood combing wool is nearly as strong as delaine, though it is perhaps a little more difficult to get 46 cents for a good half-blood than for delaine. The position of the three-eighths-blood combing grade does not appear to be quite so well-assured as the other leading grades, but best lots are being held at 45 to 45½ cents. A few bunch lots are left in Ohio, for which up to 42 cents is being asked, with eastern buyers trying to gather them in at 39 to 40 cents.

It is possible that the western growers have done well to make so large a volume of contracts while they had the assistance of the strong foreign markets in sustaining prices. As to that, later developments must determine. Not since the disastrous experience of 1924-25 has so pronounced a contracting movement been noted in the first weeks of the year as in 1927. It is believed that whatever surplus may exist today in domestic sorts in any position will be entirely wiped out before another Australian clip comes on the market. The auctions there will be practically over in another month, except in Brisbane, and American buyers must necessarily step lively to avoid a shortage of choice fine wools at the American mills.

The situation here is cheerful, though not materially changed as to values, and few seem to be looking for an advance of importance before shearing. There is a feeling that much depends upon the way that the current heavy-weight season de-

velops. To date the season has been opening very slowly, though some lines have met with a good initial sale.

LICENSED WOOL WAREHOUSES

Eighteen warehouses, located in ten states are licensed to receive and store wools, under the provisions and requirements of the United States Warehouse Act. Warehouse receipts issued by these Federally licensed concerns are in negotiable form and are accepted by banks as security for loans on the products stored.

Many large wool concerns, including some of the co-operatives, do not own or operate their own warehouses, but hire space or storage in licensed houses owned by others.

The list of houses now licensed for the storage of wool, follows:

Arizona Storage & Distributing Co., Phoenix, Ariz.
No. California Wool Whse. Co., Red Bluff, Cal.
The Haslett Warehouse Co., San Francisco, Cal.
The Blackfoot Potato & Fruit Growers Assn., Ltd., Blackfoot, Ida.
White Transfer and Storage, Blackfoot, Ida.
Nezperce Roller Mills, Lewiston, Ida.
Idaho Falls Warehouse Co., Idaho Falls, Ida.
The Terminal Warehouse Co. of Baltimore City, Baltimore, Md.
Fargo Street Warehouse Co., Boston, Mass.
Quincy Market Cold Stg. & Whse. Co., Boston, Mass.
Wiggin Terminals Inc., Boston, Mass.
Paul J. Woodcome, Fitchburg, Mass.
R. E. Jones Company, Wabasha, Minn.
Geo. H. Maus, Amsterdam, N. Y.
John Kiernan (Pacific Wool Whse.), Portland, Ore.
Western Wool Warehouse Co., Portland, Ore.
Woolen Mills Storage Co., Portland, Ore.
Jennings-Cornwall Whse. Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.

BETTER PREPARATION OF WOOLS FOR MARKET SOUGHT BY CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION

The California Wool Growers Association has recently taken a new step in its always progressive march. A plan is to be developed by it whereby better standardization and packing of California wools will be secured. This action was decided upon at a meeting of the executive committee of the association held in San Francisco on February 9, at which twenty counties of the state were represented. Legislative matters and regulations pertaining to the state ram sale were also considered.

CENTRAL WOOL POOL

To the Editor:

The old game is going on again this year in the wool business; that is, one buyer is being allotted to a certain territory. The commission houses and manufacturers seem to be well organized, and on this word, 'organization', I wish to make a few statements.

I appreciate the valuable assistance that comes from the state and national organizations of wool growers, but I should like to see their usefulness broadened, and, with the cooperation of all the wool growers' associations, stability brought to the wool and lamb markets.

It has occurred to me that if the various states would pool all their wool and classify it as nearly as is possible according to quality, into three or four classes, probably, and fix a price for each class at or not later than the annual convention of the National Wool Growers Association, we would all realize from five to ten cents per pound more than we do under the present competitive system.

Under such a plan as outlined above no doubt a large sum of money could be obtained through the reserve banks at a small rate of interest. As portions of the wool are sold, each individual would receive money in the same ratio as his consignment bears to the total amount of wool, and after sales are made and a portion of the borrowed money is refunded, each wool grower would be credited on his loan in proportion to the size of his clip.

Wool could be contracted immediately after the price is fixed and advance money paid on such contract and the balance when the wool is loaded. Wool not sold at shearing could be moved to local or national warehouses and held until sold. After the first year I believe most of the wool would be disposed of early in the season and interest on borrowed money would not amount to a great deal.

I do not believe the retail prices would be necessarily higher on woolen goods, as only a few pounds of virgin wool are used in a \$50 suit of clothes. The trouble with the cost of wools to the consumer lies somewhere between the manufacturer and the retailer, perhaps all along the

line. This is where our government might assist and I see no reason why it should not. The farmers are asking the government to fix prices on farm products, but I believe we could stabilize the market and sell for a fair price if the government would regulate the price of the manufactured article.

I believe commission houses would handle wool under the plan suggested more readily because the market would be more stable and certain. I do not now recall a commodity that can be so easily handled. The men engaged in the business would be no handicap. It would just mean a little more work for the secretary-treasurer.

Chas. D. Adams.

Parowan, Utah.

PREDATORY ANIMAL WORK IN UTAH DURING WINTER MONTHS

Predatory animal work in Utah, under the direction of Geo. E. Holman, who acts as the joint executive officer for the U. S. Biological Survey and the Utah State Board of Agriculture, has progressed well during the winter months. During December and January a wide-spread distribution of poison was made, a total of 155,450 baits having been set out, by which most of the summer range territory was joined up with poison stations. The lower parts of the spring and fall ranges and territory close to ranches were also poisoned with smaller baits and it is planned that these sections will receive closer attention from the hunters than previously.

As the mating season of the animals is on during January and February and little feeding is done, nothing spectacular is expected in the way of catches. During January, however, the total catch included seventeen bobcats, ninety-four coyotes, and two lions. Some of the hunters found little evidence of predatory animals near their stations when they visited them during that month, while others reported unmistakable signs that animals had been poisoned and their bodies picked up by other parties.

Stockmen are said to be very well pleased with the results of the predatory animal work previously done on the winter ranges.

Range and Market Trade In Lambs

CHICAGO

Fourteen-dollar lambs went over the market during the last week of February, definitely terminating what has been popularly known as the "rubber stamp" era. Simultaneously with the appearance of a few eastern orders, the market advanced a dollar to a level where it should have been all winter to enable corn-belt feeders to get a good price for their feed. The jump from \$13.75 to \$14.75 on the top price during the week ending February 26 was due to a combination of eastern demand and improvement in dressed trade as supply was sustained all around the market circle. The bulge carried the market to the highest levels since last October and \$2 higher than the low spot in January when packers were pegged at \$12.25, and \$12.50 was the limit.

The month's supply around the ten-market circle, including Buffalo, was slightly less than a year ago, approximately 970,000 or 30,000 less than in February, 1926. It was largely a corn-belt supply, farm feed lots east of the Missouri River cleaning up closely during the month. The market was an orderly affair all through, gradually advancing from a \$12.75@13.65 basis for the bulk of desirable lambs until a \$13.50@14.50 trade was established at the end of the month. Fluctuations exceeding 25 cents per hundredweight on any single session were rare and no bad Monday markets were recorded. Packers resisted the advance, using every possible bear device. When eastern demand asserted itself and there was a prospect of finished lambs, weighing 86 pounds down, going to a substantial premium, they adroitly sidestepped, letting eastern buyers take what they wanted and contenting themselves with the residue, which meant the weighty end of the crop. Sheep advanced 50 cents per hundredweight during the month, feeding lambs showing about the same appreciation.

Skeletonized the market performance during February follows:

Week ending February 5- Top lambs, \$13.35; bulk, \$12.50@13.10. Top shorn lambs, \$10@11. Top feeding lambs, \$13.10, bulk, \$12.25@12.75. Yearlings, \$11@11.50. Top ewes, \$8.75; bulk, \$7@8.50. Two-year-old wethers, 84 pounds, went to killers at \$10.50; aged wethers, 100 pounds, at \$9.50.

Week ending February 12- Top lambs, \$13.60; bulk, \$12.75@13.35. Shorn lambs, \$11@11.50. Cull lambs, \$10@11. Top feeding lambs, \$13.35; bulk, \$12.25@13. Yearlings, \$11@11.50. Top ewes, \$9; bulk, \$7.50@8.50.

Week ending February 19- Top lambs, \$13.90; bulk, \$12.75@13.75. Top shorn lambs, \$12; bulk, \$10.50@11.40. Cull lambs, \$10@11. Top feeding lambs, \$13.25; bulk, \$12.25@13. Yearlings, \$11.50@12.25. Top ewes, \$9; bulk, \$7.50@8.50. Ninety-five-pound, two-year-old wethers sold at \$10.25 and 69-pound springers at \$14.

Week ending February 26- Top lambs, \$14.75; bulk, \$13.50@14.50. Top shorn lambs, \$12.50; bulk, \$11@12.35. Cull lambs, \$10@11. Top feeding lambs, \$13.60; bulk, \$12.50@13.50. Fat ewes, \$7.50@9. Yearlings, \$11@12.35.

The market was uneventful all through, in striking contrast to trading conditions a year ago. There were few native lambs in the crop; at least 80 per cent of the run was western-bred stock of the farm-fed type, the big feed lots contributing few. Occasionally a load of choice native lambs was eligible to the top price, but most of the natives lacked condition, quality, or both. The proportion of feeding lambs in the run was small; mostly "comebacks" making a second trip to the feed lot. Michigan feeders were hungry for shearing lambs and would have taken more had they been available.

Scarcity of all kinds of yearlings and mature sheep was marked, prices gradually advancing all through the month. This put a quietus on country trade in breeding and feeding stock, packers taking everything fit to bleed. A considerable number of fat ewes sold at \$8@8.75.

There was no marked discrimination against heavy lambs, such as has occurred in recent years. When the top price was around \$13, lambs weighing 95 to 98 pounds were worth \$12.35 and the 105-pound kind, \$12, indicating a discount of 50@75 cents per hundredweight at the crest of the rise when packers stopped at \$14.60 on light lambs, it was \$13.50@13.85 trade in 93@98-pound stock, extreme weights selling at \$12.25@12.65. Early in the month a few overweighted sorted from load lots sold at \$11.50@11.75, but the big lamb fared well as a rule, no complaint being heard of trouble in merchandising circles. Shorn lambs were at all times scarce, feeders having little incentive for mid-winter shearing. On the rise \$12.50 was paid for 80-pound, fall-shorn lambs, the bulk of the offering going to \$11.50@12.25.

Feeder buying was based on the theory that the late market will be high this year and shearing profitable. Early in the month \$12.50@12.75 took lightweight lambs that gradually worked to a \$13@13.50 basis and more would have been taken at the same money. Medium light and good heavy feeding lambs advanced from \$12 to \$12.50 during month.

Supply was well distributed, reasonable stability resulting. The first week of February ten markets received 253,000; the second week, 238,000; the third week 236,000 and the last week, 242,000. Last year during the same period the movement was more erratic and prices less stable. Much of the stuff lacked finish owing to poor quality of corn, which made normal gains impossible.

Buffalo was relatively low all through the month. This was attributed, partly at least, to the growing practice of buying lambs in the country, especially southern Michigan, reducing competition at the eastern market.

Dressed trade picked up during the month, showing appreciation of \$2 to \$3 per hundredweight at the Atlantic seaboard between opening and finish. It was a profit period for killers who had a prompt outlet for their product, most of which sold "plus". After the first

week when \$24@26 took choice carcasses, dressed trade picked up; prompt clearances were the rule, and choice lots moved readily at \$28. There was a wide spread of \$18 to \$28 for common to choice light carcasses, most of the supply selling dressed at \$24@26. Late in the month nothing in the shape of dressed carcass lamb sold below \$23. Mutton always sold well, wether carcasses making \$19@20; good ewes \$15@17 with cheaper grades at \$12@14. Supply and demand were well balanced all through the month, nothing went to the freezer, and while considerable haggling was done, both live and dressed trade showed a healthy undertone.

Comparative sheep and lamb prices at this season for the years indicated at Chicago:

	Sheep			Lambs		
	Top	Bulk		Top	Bulk	
1927	\$10.25	\$ 7.50@ 9.00	\$14.75	\$13.50@ 14.50		
1926	9.75	7.25@ 9.00	14.25	12.25@ 13.75		
1925	11.50	7.00@ 9.25	18.00	16.50@ 17.75		
1924	11.00	8.50@ 10.50	16.45	15.00@ 16.25		
1923	9.00	7.00@ 8.25	15.50	12.25@ 15.25		
1922	9.25	7.50@ 8.50	16.00	14.50@ 15.60		
1921	7.50	5.75@ 9.00	11.25	9.75@ 11.00		
1920	14.50	12.25@ 14.00	20.25	18.75@ 20.00		

Going back to 1915 bulk of lambs sold at \$9.25@9.85; sheep at \$7 to \$7.25.

J. E. Poole.

OMAHA

For the first time in many moons the lamb feeder is coming to market with a smile and telling about how much he made instead of how much he lost. Temporarily at least, red ink is in the discard through the sensational advance that marked the lamb trade during February.

Short receipts at all principal markets, together with an advance of \$2.00@4.00 in eastern dressed lamb quotations, played the principal role in carrying prices for live animals to levels \$1.50@1.85 over those of a month ago and the highest on this market since last October. Top figures advanced from \$12.70 at the close of January to \$14.40 the last day of February. During the last two days a further advance of \$1.00 was registered and at this writing the top is \$15.20, with the bulk selling at \$14.75@15.10.

The run at Omaha for the four weeks

footed up just 149,603 head, 23,000 under February, 1926, and the smallest supply on record for that month in sixteen years. The shortage for the year to date at twenty leading markets over the country amounts to some 70,000 head less than a year ago, while total receipts to March 1 stand as the smallest in over five years, 1925 excepted. While bulk of the local supply again came from nearby Nebraska and Iowa feed lots, arrivals included a liberal percentage of Colorado and western Nebraska offerings.

The rise in killer values tended to stimulate demand for feeders, which were in comparatively small supply, and this class shows a net advance of 75 cents @ \$1.00. Total shipments of feeder lambs from Omaha were the heaviest for any February since 1920, aggregating 22,952 head, against 31,278 head in January and 15,094 head for the same month in 1926.

While it was generally conceded around the first of February that lambs would work higher within 30 to 60 days, the late advance exceeded the hopes of the most optimistic. While the \$15 fed lamb was expected by some eventually, he has put in his appearance considerably ahead of his prophesied date of arrival. The present situation looks very much as though prices have bounded forward so rapidly that they are about due for a fall and it would not be surprising to see them lose some of the recent advance in the near future, although it is not expected that values will recede to the same degree that they have gone up.

With the shortage that exists for the year to date, demand should hold up well for some time and prices be well maintained. There are many, however, who feel that any peak in the fed lamb season, as far as prices are concerned, will be reached this month. Most of the larger western feeders are pointing their operations toward the late March and April market. An earlier movement of California spring lambs is expected this season. Reports indicate that these will come to market in much better flesh than a year ago and any increased arrivals of fed lambs later on, together with any volume of Californias that included a larger per cent of slaughter lambs, would alleviate the present shortage and furnish bearish

surroundings for the wind-up of the fed season.

With receipts of mature stock continuing light and demand holding up well, fat ewes scored another sharp advance during February which amounted to \$1.25@1.50 and carried prices to levels \$2.00@3.00 over those in vogue as the year opened. Best light offerings sold up to \$9.25 on the close, while \$9.50 was paid within the last two days with other desirable kinds at \$8.50@9.00 largely. The few feeding ewes coming have been in demand at figures upwards to \$6.00 and breeding ewes at \$8.25 down.

K. H. Kittoe.

KANSAS CITY

February recorded a substantial upward movement in lamb prices. January closed with top lambs selling at \$12.75, and February's closing top was \$14.15, or a net gain of \$1.40 a hundred pounds. This of course is figuring entirely on the basis of top grades, but those of less quality and finish held the same relative position in the upward swing in relation to tops that they did in January. The first half of the month the market displayed considerable irregularity, but in the last ten days showed a steady advance that appeared not to have been fully exhausted at the close. The average advance, considering both the high and low spots was 50 to 75 cents. This gain was sufficient to bring a high enough level to let feeders break about even on their operations. A further advance would restore a profit.

During the month receipts decreased steadily and taking the total supply offered at Missouri River markets, it was one of the lightest runs ever reported in the second month of the year. However, points east of the Missouri River were liberally supplied and this condition tended to hold the advance in the Central West to more moderate proportions than if the East had not had so many. This general situation has been a depressing influence all season. Some are of the opinion that eastern states have about cleaned up on fed lambs. If this is the case the advance that has been under way the past two weeks will be continued.

Northern and eastern Colorado feed lots at the beginning of the year had 50 per cent fewer lambs on feed than on the same date last season. However, in the past two months they marketed only one-fourth as many as in the first two months of 1926. These figures therefore indicate that those sections have more lambs to market between now and the middle of April than in the same period last year. These can be taken care of readily if the East has cleaned up as closely as it claims to have done.

Another condition that throws uncertainty into the general situation is the supply of fed lambs in the Imperial Valley of California and spring lambs of more northern sections. Southern California this week loaded 52 double decks of fed lambs for eastern markets. They will show up in well distributed numbers at the various central markets within the next few days. Others will follow in regular weekly periods. The California spring (winter) lamb movement to home markets, has started already. Some consignments will be seeking an eastern outlet by late March, and April will witness a heavy run.

The February advance was highly encouraging, but there are too many mixed and uncertain conditions facing the trade for the next thirty days, to venture a guess as to which direction prices will take.

Fat sheep remained in moderate supply. They advanced fully as much as fat lambs during the month and made new high records for the year. On the close fat yearlings were quoted at \$11 to \$11.50; wethers \$9 to \$9.75 and ewes \$8 to \$9. The supply from day to day was very uncertain and it is becoming more evident that the winter feeder is handling fewer aged classes each year.

Feeding lamb prices responded to the advance in fat lambs, but the gain was checked when quotations reached the \$13.50 level, reflecting a rather conservative streak for this time of year. Buyers however are watching the runs and their potential demand will continue to keep killers from developing a very decided bearish streak.

It is practically an assured fact that

this winter's feeding operations will show a net loss to the feeder. Some of the lambs yet to be marketed may show a profit but they will comprise such a small per cent of the total number fed that the final counting cannot be pulled to the plus side. Feeders in the sections east of the Missouri River will have sustained the greater part of this loss, not only through the fact that they bought thin lambs at high prices but feed was of poor quality, gains were unsatisfactory, and weather unfavorable. It will be well for the western producer to keep these facts in mind when he begins to figure the probable price level of the summer and fall market on thin lambs. Fat cattle have swung into the money-making column in the past two months and this past winter lamb feeding has trespassed on the cattle feeding area in unprecedented volume. It is reasonable to anticipate that the swing next fall will be back to cattle with a corresponding reduction in sheep feeding. On this basis the feeder west of the Missouri River will have a better feeding margin in sheep than in cattle. In other words a general analysis of present conditions from the sheep producer's standpoint is that the western feeder will be the largest buyer of thin lambs this coming summer and fall.

February receipts in Kansas City were 87,241 compared with 111,758 a year ago, and the lightest February supply since 1903. For two months, receipts were 217,756 or 1,200 larger than in the same period last year, the January increase more than offset the February decrease.

C. M. Pipkin.

ST. JOSEPH

Sheep receipts for the month of February were approximately 112,600 compared with 103,481 last month and 132,448 the same month last year. Of the month's total, only about one-third were from the states of Colorado, Utah and Idaho, the balance being from Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska. The month opened with top lambs at \$12.60 and prices were up and down the first two weeks, but after this there was a steady to higher market each succeeding day until the close, when the top stood at

\$14.25, lambs averaging up to 91 pounds selling at this price, and 105-pound kinds down to \$13.50. Feeders sold at \$13.90 on the close and clips were quoted up to \$12.75. Compared with a month ago lambs and yearlings are \$1.50@1.75 higher, and aged sheep around \$1.25 higher. Yearlings sold \$11.60@12.00 on the close, wethers \$10.25@10.35, and the best ewes at \$9.00 with choice kinds quoted at \$9.25.

H. H. Madden.

CALIFORNIA LAMBS

About 25,000 California spring lambs were estimated by the California Wool Growers Association to have been contracted by February 15, a great deal of activity being reported from the Dixon and Woodland sections, where \$8.50 per head is said to have been the price for lambs delivered between February 22 and March 20 and \$8 for those shipped from that date until May 10. One contract in Yolo County is reported at \$12 per hundredweight.

Imperial Valley is reported as having 10,000 spring lambs weighing around 60 pounds the middle of February, but the recent rains have retarded lamb growth there. Reports from Fresno County indicated that over 2,000 lambs would be ready for shipment about March 1 and that some of the Miller and Lux ranches would have lambs ready for slaughter before that date. Other counties will also have lambs ready before March 1, but the big movement is set for April 1.

LAMB FEEDERS LOSE

I fed 1600 fine-wool Oregon lambs the past winter and had a net loss on the bunch of \$1.07 per head. This was in spite of the fact that I bought these lambs for ten cents per pound three months before they were born. With the purchase price of the lambs 10 cents, they cost laid down at my feed lots, not including any shrinkage in shipment, 10.8 cents per pound. My loss of lambs was unusually low, amounting to only one per cent. They were good feeders, weighing only 58 pounds at loading time. My labor cost only amounted to 9 cents per head. Still I lost money.

The past winter was the worst feeding weather in twenty years. For five weeks the lambs never dried off. There was no way of keeping them out of the mud. Instead of putting on twenty-five pounds per head in one hundred days, they made a gain of only eighteen pounds. However, at prevailing prices a gain of seven pounds more would have left me still in the hole 30 cents per head. At the selling prices which have obtained since November, it has been possible to make money on feeders either in the West or the eastern farms.

I have no excuse to offer for low prices on the market, except that we are producing more lambs than can be consumed at living prices. Certainly the feeders have made no money and it is just as certain the man who raised these lambs made none. We should watch this increase of sheep most carefully, for we are now credited with around 41 million head of sheep in the United States. That is probably more than the country can handle. The total should have been kept around 36 million head.

Bliss, Idaho.

S. W. McClure.

AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY

(Continued from Page 17)

has been contracted at from 35 cents a pound to 38½ cents. Prospects for the next lamb crop are very bright. Of course, we have to consider the fact that conditions may arise yet that will cut our lamb crop down.

T. A. Kincaid

Girvin

February weather was fine. A three-fourths-inch rain put water in the tanks, and the range feed, though short, is green and with two weeks of warm weather, should be very good.

We expect to have a record lamb crop this year, as we bred about twenty per cent more ewes and conditions are favorable. We also kept about 75 per cent of our ewe lambs to replace the older ewes this year. A few contracts have been signed for fat lambs, ewes and wethers, at \$6.00; no feeders have been contracted yet.

Wool, shrinking around 60 per cent, has been tied up here at from 30 to 35 cents.

Alfalfa hay is \$14 a ton baled.

Sherbino Bros.

Comstock

All the ranches in their neighborhood are under net-wire fences and sheep and goats are being successfully run loose, and unless it is very dry, without feeding. At present (March 6) the range is in excellent condition. No alfalfa is used here; for, as above stated, we use the range all winter.

Long wool is being contracted at 37 to 40 cents and short wool at 30 cents. I do not know what the shrinkage is figured at.

A few lambs have also been signed up, \$5 to \$5.50 being the figure for feeder lambs. Our ewe bands are about the same size as last year, but about 85 per cent of the ewe lambs were retained last fall for rebuilding the flocks.

Geo. W. Baker.

ARIZONA

Mild weather, with an abundance of rain or snow in most sections has favored live stock and the ranges. Soils are generally moist and giving a good start to spring forage, and live stock are mostly in good condition. Spring lambs are doing well, and the progress of lambing has been satisfactory with good increases reported. Shearing is progressing favorably in the Salt River valley. Pastures are making excellent progress at the lower levels.

Phoenix

Range continues are good here (March 5). Early lambing results have been good here and on the desert; the May lambing will depend on the mountain feed, the prospects for which are very good.

Feed on the range has been good all winter, but about 40 per cent of the sheep are fed here during the winter months. Alfalfa hay costs from \$8 to \$10 a ton in the stack at the present time.

We bred about five per cent more ewes this season, but it is hard to say how many ewe lambs were kept last fall as we save one band each year. No contracting of lambs has occurred.

From 33 to 37 cents have been the figures at which the 1927 wools have been tied up.

E. A. Sawyer.

UTAH

Temperatures averaged well above normal and precipitation, much of it in

the form of rain, has been ample for all needs. Moisture has at times been scarce locally, especially in the southern portion; but as a rule live stock have had enough, and there is plenty of soil moisture to assure a good spring range growth. Live stock are doing fairly well, the browse having been in excellent condition most of the month, and spring grasses are starting now.

Vernal

Since the first of February, a great number of the sheep have been fed. The sheepmen last fall figured on a hard winter and bought hay in preparation to feed and most of the sheep in this vicinity have come through the winter in good shape. The range has been very poor on account of the very dry summer.

Contracting of wools, estimated to shrink around 60 per cent has been done in this vicinity on a range of 30 to 32 cents.

No lambs have been contracted yet. The size of the lamb yield should be about the same as in 1926.

Wages for herders are \$75 a month. Five and six dollars a ton is asked for alfalfa hay in the stack.

Ford DeJournette

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600 acres—Hay, Grain and Pasture Land.
About 400 acres irrigated and most of the balance subirrigated.

Excellent water right, annual cost about \$30.
Can be made to produce about 600 tons hay.
Fine open spring water and good feed grounds.
Two good homes and other good building.

Can furnish complete equipment.

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The Antiseptic Products Company
3103 Walnut Street Denver, Colo.

Ephraim

Contracting on wool has been done here on a price range of 30 to 32 cents a pound. The shrinkage of the wool is figured at around 60 per cent.

No offers have been made yet for 1927 lambs.

Some few sheep are fed here during the winter, but the majority of them run on

the range, which has been rather poor this season on account of the very dry fall weather. There is not sufficient range here to permit of much of an increase in sheep numbers. The ewe bands are practically the same size as they were last year, so far as I know. Sheepmen, however, kept about 80 per cent of their ewe lambs last year to replenish their flocks.

The going wage for herders is \$90 a month, and the present price of alfalfa hay is \$10 a ton in the stack.

Andrew Christensen

Trout Creek

Sheepmen in this section of the desert are very optimistic at this time (February 4). Herds stood the brunt of the cold weather in January very well and are now vigorous and thriving on feed uncovered by the recent thaw. The consistent precipitation has kept the herds on fresh feed, so there has been very little overgrazing around the water holes. The coyotes, however, have made incessant inroads until lately, and in all have taken a sizable toll.

There has been very little feeding. Alfalfa hay is worth \$10 a ton.

B. W. Allred.

COLORADO

Mild weather has been the rule, and snows have been heavier than usual. Deep snows resulted in increased live stock feeding, and owing to the mild weather feeding yards have been very muddy as a rule. However, live stock have done very well as a general rule, and the soils are mostly saturated for spring forage growth. The weather has been unfavorable for some early lambing in southern counties.

Sanford

I enjoy reading the National Wool Grower and especially "Around the Range Country." I like to know what other wool growers are doing.

I run about 1500 ewes, about 500 of which start lambing March 15 and the others about April 25. My ewes shear a little better than ten pounds of wool. We shear about June 1.

We have had a very open winter here. There was a little snow during February, but most of that month was very nice.

There is a very little open range here. We have a good fall range until the middle of November, but from then on most of the sheep are fed on pastures. From \$5 to \$7 is asked for alfalfa hay in the stack.

The ewe bands in this vicinity, I believe, are somewhat larger than they were last year. So far no lambs have been contracted. Some of the wool, with an estimated shrink of from 60 to 65 per cent, has been signed up at 30 cents a pound.

T. W. Crowther

LOS ANGELES WOOL TRADES ASSOCIATION FORMED

Southern California business men, representing all branches of the wool industry, from the producer to the manufacturer, met in Los Angeles recently and organized the Los Angeles Wool Trades Association. The board of directors of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce was responsible for calling the meeting and the chairman of its wool committee, Mr. Frank C. Mortimer, who is vice-president of the Citizens National Bank, presided.

Mr. Mortimer states that an investigation had been made by the wool committee of the Chamber of Commerce which brought out the facts that there is an increasing consumption of wool by woolen mills in Los Angeles and that there is a splendid opportunity for extending both the manufacture of cloth and clothing and the use of Los Angeles as a wool concentration point. It was pointed out that some 16,000,000 pounds of raw wool originate in southern California, Arizona, southern Nevada and Utah, which are naturally tributary areas to Los Angeles harbor.

The purpose of the Wool Trades Association is announced as that of advancing the mutual interests of the different member concerns. Mr. Seward C. Simons, manager of the domestic trade department of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, is the temporary secretary of the new organization.

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If that is the kind of a Rambouillet ram you like, see our offering of 1200 yearlings in 1927.

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We Offer:

Yearling Range Rams: Husky and
Ready for Service

200 One and two-year-old ewes:
Very Choice Stuff

200 Ewe lambs

50 Old ewes



Day Farms Company

PAROWAN, UTAH

WESTERN LIVE-STOCK MEN CONSERVE WILD LIFE

By M. E. Musgrave, Inspector, U. S.
Biological Survey
(Reprinted from American Game,
October, 1926)

Having grown up on western ranges in close contact with stockmen, I feel that I am in position to speak with understanding and some authority on their attitude toward wild life and what they are doing for the protection of game, birds and animals on western ranges. As the limits of this article do not permit mention of hundreds of men in the range stock business that are affording protection to wild life, I am taking some outstanding cases of which I have personal knowledge.

From 1900 until 1909 I spent most of my time on the ranges of eastern Oregon. Live stock have been grazed in that section for many years, yet deer, antelope, sage hens, and waterfowl were abundant. There were literally millions of game birds throughout that part of the United States. One could ride for miles on the high deserts of eastern Oregon and see antelope in great herds, unmolested and unafraid. Stockmen of the outlying districts often pointed with pride at a bunch of them grazing within sight of their doors. Sage hens mingled freely with the chickens in the yard and seldom were any killed except occasionally one for frying. On Warner, Harney, Klamath, Goose, and other smaller lakes ducks nested by thousands. These lands were about all under fence and were owned by live-stock men, and the ducks and geese were not molested there. Most of the men did not even own a shotgun, and the few to be found in the country were old muzzle loaders that had seen no service for years.

Meat of the antelope was hardly considered edible, and I well remember the disgust of a live-stock man, Jack Berry by name, with whom I was once riding when we came upon a man who had just killed one of these animals. "What did you kill that for?" Berry asked and added contemptuously, "It's not fit to eat."

In those days there were few roads in the country and these retreats where wild

life was found in abundance were rather inaccessible to hunters.

Today good roads and the automobile have made easy access to this section, and in consequence game is rapidly diminishing, to the regret and alarm of the real lover of the wild.

I know that very many live-stock men have contributed to the conservation of these wild creatures. At present more than half of the stock ranges that are under fence are posted, displaying signs, "No Hunting" or "No Shooting," on all gates leading into these enclosures. It is true that the motive for posting these signs may not always be primarily a desire to protect the wild life within its environs, but rather the necessity of protecting the owner's domestic stock and perhaps his own life against the indiscriminate hunter.

There are, however, many instances where these men have been protecting the game on their ranges for many years solely for the love of the wild animals. On the Baldwin Ranch in Sonoma County, California, which has offered this protection for years, there are now approximately 2,500 Columbian black-tailed deer sharing its 7,000 acres of pasture with the cattle; and the owner, Orville R. Baldwin, can show one a hundred of these lovely creatures in an hour's ride on his place. The same sight can be seen on Morrow Ranch near Mount Hamilton, Santa Clara County, California.

There are likewise many outstanding examples in Arizona. Here the remaining herds of antelope that are of any size are existing on privately owned land and have been protected by the live-stock owners. One of these is located at Wright Creek, near Kingman, on the Carrow Brothers' range; and the other herd, numbering between three and five hundred animals, ranges in the pasture owned by the "3V" Livestock Company of Seligman.

The only real herd of mule deer besides those on the Kaibab National Game Preserve is to be found on what is known as the Perrin grant, west of Prescott. Deer inside this enclosure are given as much protection as is possible for the owner of the pasture to provide.

Inside the fenced districts of central

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Kills lice, ticks, scab. Prevents contagious diseases.

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Ladino Clover

If you wish to raise better sheep on a smaller acreage, use my home-grown Ladino Clover. Its rapid growth makes an abundance of fine, succulent pasture which cannot be equaled by any other forage crop for sheep or dairy cows.

Seed in Small Lots—\$1.50 per pound.

Special price per hundred pounds.

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Membership Fee \$10—No Annual Dues. Flock Books Free to Members. Volumes XXII and XXIII are being bound together and will soon be ready for distribution. Pedigrees now being received for Volume XXV. Over 115,000 sheep on record.

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For history of the breed, list of members, rules, pedigree blanks, etc., address the Secretary.

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Umbrella Tents, without awning extension, also with awning extension, screen window and doors for automobiles and sheep herders, with and without canvas floors.

Range tents with canvas floors sewed in.

Stockman's bed sheets, also sheep and lambing tents, and tarps.

Send for big Catalogue and Discount Sheet.

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Extending YOUR Market

Among agencies contributing to the upbuilding of the West none has been more continuously at work than the railroad.

More than half of all Southern Pacific advertising expenditures are directly aimed at the attraction of visitors and home-seekers to regions served by the company's lines.

Since 1916 the company has brought some three and one-half million people to the West, thousands of them remaining as permanent residents.

Nation-wide attention has been directed to hundreds of mineral deposits suitable for profitable development, and the number of new industries located in the West as a result of the company's industrial development work runs into thousands.

Just as a pebble flung into a pond sends ripples to the farthest shore, so does the purchasing power of every new settler directly, although perhaps minutely, affect your prosperity.

No matter what you do, grow, make, create or sell, the railroad is extending your markets by attracting new industries and settlers.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC

THREE GOOD BOOKS

Coffey's Productive Sheep Husbandry.....	\$2.50
Sampson's Range and Pasture Management.....	4.00
Sampson's Native American Forage Plants.....	5.00

For Sale by

NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

and southern Arizona thousands of quail are found, while just outside there are few, if any, of those birds. On the Tom Peters range, south of Tucson, the call of these little feathered folk is heard incessantly, for they thrive in great numbers. Here also are seen occasionally three antelope, the remnant of a large herd that once ranged in the San Fernando Valley. This range is fenced and posted as is also that of J. N. Ronstadt which joins it on the south.

The small stock owner, in like manner, does all in his power to conserve wild life. For three years Cleve Miller, who owns a small outfit in the Blue Mountains, has provided pasture and protection for numerous deer, and a great flock of wild turkeys came daily to his dooryard and fed with domestic fowls. I saw wild turkeys in the pasture of C. C. Cleveland in the White Mountains that were so tame they were not frightened away by my approach in the car or on horseback. The ranch women have done their part too, and many a one has raised by hand some little fawn found in distress after the mother had been killed.

Late one afternoon I rode up to the gate of a ranch in southern Arizona to be met by one of the most indignant women I ever saw. We were old friends and I felt privileged to inquire the cause of her anger. A hunter had been taking potshots at the quail she had been feeding all winter. "And not only that," she blazed, "they shot at Sammie, too!" Sammie was a young buck standing near. He wore a leather collar about his neck and had been a pet since fawnhood.

The past twenty-eight years wild life on the Bell Ranch, near Tucumcari, New Mexico, has been protected in accordance with orders from the general manager, Mr. C. M. O'Donel, and I believe the largest herd of antelope in New Mexico can be found on the Bell holdings. In addition there are a great many deer receiving protection on that same ranch.

On the Henry C. Harding ranch in the Palo Duro Canyon in the Panhandle of Texas, deer, wild turkeys, and quail have been "planted" and are protected by the owner. Near Amarillo, Texas, practically every enclosure owned by live-stock men

is posted, and wild life is given every protection possible.

These are just a few of the many cases in the West where live-stock men are not only giving protection to game birds and animals, but in protecting them they are necessarily protecting all other beneficial forms of wild life. For the past forty or fifty years the range live-stock man has made war on predatory animals. True, this has been primarily to save his domestic stock from ravages of these animals, but in so doing he has been protecting game animals that would naturally have been preyed upon.

These small game preserves, as they may be called, throughout the West are doing more to protect wild life than any other one factor today. I know positively that certain species of game animals on these areas would have been completely wiped out had it not been for the interest in them and the protection given them by the live-stock men. This is outstandingly exemplified by what has been done on the Goodnight Ranch in Texas, where the few remaining bison were saved from hunters by that great pioneer stockman, Colonel Goodnight. The Goodnights settled in Palo Duro Canyon in 1876 and at that time there were millions of bison in that section of Texas. The ruthless slaughter soon began and it was only a short time until there were no bison left on the open range. During this slaughter Mrs. Goodnight prevailed on the Colonel to have their cowboys bring in some of the motherless calves that had been left to die on the range or to fall prey to predatory animals. That was the founding of the Goodnight herd of bison, one of the remnants later utilized in the preservation of the species. Colonel Goodnight also tried for years to protect antelope on his ranch, but poachers from outside finally destroyed them all.

Having known the live-stock owners as a class intimately, though not one myself, I am glad as a nature lover to see what they have been doing in a quiet, unobtrusive manner for the preservation of all forms of wild bird and animal life on the western ranges. Not only have they offered sanctuary to all wild life, but by erecting windmills, building small rock or earth dams, and by excavating tanks to

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And Are the Hardest and Best Rangers in the World

You can range three DELAINE-MERINO ewes on the same feed it takes for two of the larger breeds; they will shear twice as much wool as the other two, and raise blockier lambs, which the trade now demands. Cross your ewes with DELAINE-MERINO BUCKS and get a band of Really Profitable Sheep to run. I have 200 DELAINE-MERINO BUCKS for 1927 trade. Photos free.

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Exceptional Opportunity

4000 acres all fenced and cross fenced—300 acres cultivated—75 to 100 bushels oats and 35 to 50 bushels wheat per acre.

Complete equipment for ranching.

150 acres virgin pine timber—300,000 feet board measure.

13 miles irrigation ditch with 15-foot water decree. Plenty of water when needed.

1800 tillable land. Level country, 8000 feet altitude. Borders forest reserve available for sheep or cattle.

Nine miles from Placerville, Colo., largest stock shipping station on Rio Grande Railroad.

Finest grass on earth. Can not be beaten for purebred live stock.

Must be sold within the next sixty days

Terms can be arranged.

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FOR SALE

In the famous spring lamb producing section near Waterford, Stanislaus County, California. (Will carry 2,000 ewes).

Abundant feed—even in dry years—Four miles of flowing creek—good soil—land gently rolling with flat bottoms—all tillable—100 acres in alfalfa.

4,729 acres—2½ miles from paved highway and railroad station by gravel road.

A GOOD STOCK RANCH AT A LOW PRICE

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We can help you produce the best.

20 Stud Rams

the best we have ever offered, from which to select your sires.
No reservations. Come and see them, or let us select for you.

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The kind that have made Ridgcrest Hampshires famous

A comparison of both top and general average prices of Hampshire rams obtained at the National Ram Sale for the past several years puts Ridgcrest Hampshires in a class by themselves and establishes them as the Premier Flock of America.

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YEARLING EWES FOR SALE

10,000 Head Extra Good Rambouillet Yearling Ewes

To sell for spring delivery, out of the wool. They will shear eight to nine pounds this spring. Will make a real choice bunch of sheep.

WIRE OR WRITE

JESS ELROD

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HAMPSHIRE

The best mutton sheep. Evidence; the highest-priced car mutton lambs ever sold in the world was a car of Hampshires. The price was 42 cents a pound live weight, having beaten all previous records by \$7 per hundred. When you want sheep you want Hampshires. When you want Hampshires let the American Hampshire Sheep Association send you a dandy little booklet and list of live breeders.

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COMFORT A. TYLER, Secretary

72 Woodland Ave.,

Detroit, Mich.

catch the rains in places remote from any living water, they have provided the means of widening game ranges. I have seen mountain sheep, antelope, and deer drinking at these artificial pools and, in the higher altitudes, wild fowl nesting among the reeds that have grown up around the edges. The remote location of these little man-made lakes affords wonderful resting places for migratory birds on their flight north and south, as these tanks are seldom, if ever, visited by hunters during the open season.

TAX REDUCTION SECURED BY MONTANA ASSOCIATION

The Montana Wool Growers Association has succeeded in effecting a \$60,000 reduction in taxes to the sheepmen of that state for 1927. The state organization has had the tax problem as an active 'plank' in its platform since last April, and the reward of success is now visible in the amount of \$60,000. This work, along with several other undertakings, was accomplished with a total cost to the association members of \$4,400, which indicates what might be done with increased support.

The increase in the number of breeding sheep in Montana during the past year is estimated to be 650,000, but in order to be exact, the sheep population as shown by the the State Board of Equalization for 1926 is used in the following computation. According to those figures there were 2,206,257 head of sheep in the state, consisting of 29,597 bucks and purebreds, valued at \$401,123; 1,291,887 two, three and four-year-olds, valued at \$13,826,465; and all others numbering 884,773, valued at \$7,703,615.

The new tax schedule places a valuation of \$11 on range bucks, which is a reduction of \$1 a head from the previous rate; \$8 on coming yearlings, a reduction of \$2 per head; and \$11 on coming two, three and fours, a reduction of \$1 per head. It figures out as follows:

	Per Head	Total
1,291,887 head of 2s, 3s, and 4s	\$1.00	\$1,291,887
21,816 range bucks	1.00	21,816
884,773 all others	2.00	1,769,546

Total reduction in valuation.....\$3,083,249

As the average levy on sheep by the

MANTI LIVESTOCK COMPANY

MANTI, UTAH



Sired by Old 467 - JOHN K. MADSEN

Breeders of Rambouillets for over twenty years.

state for 1926 was .0531 mills on one-third of the total value, the actual reduction in taxes through the new valuation rates, based on 1926 figures, would be \$54,573.47, or 21½ cents a head on the total sheep population in Montana for 1926.

Leon Shaw.

OHIO RAMBOUILLET BREEDERS IN SESSION

The Ohio Branch of the American Rambouillet Breeders Association held its annual meeting at Marysville, Ohio, on February 3, 1927. The members selected J. E. Dennison of London to serve as president of their organization during 1927; J. Bryson Herd of East Liberty, as vice-president, and C. A. Steele of South Vienna, as secretary-treasurer. Mr. Steele was also chosen to act as judge at the 1927 Ohio State Fair.

It was decided by the association that its appropriation to the state fair should be continued and that stricter enforcement of the dog laws should be sought.

Mr. C. S. Arn of Kenton, Ohio, discussed for the breeders the types of sheep wanted by western sheepmen, and G. F. Dun of Deshler and Mr. C. A. Steele spoke on the work of the association.

PENNSYLVANIA WOOL GROWERS MEET

The Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association met during the State Farm Products Show in Harrisburg, Pa., which was held from January 17th to 21st, and elected R. L. Munce, president; J. B. Henderson, vice-president, and W. B. Connell of State College, secretary-treasurer.

The wool growers had as their guests at the luncheon meeting seventeen boys and girls, representing 4-H clubs of several counties, each of whom had shown a pen of three fat lambs at the Products Show. The champion pen, grade Hampshire lambs, exhibited by Miss Sherry E. McDowell of Fredonia, Pa., weighed a total of 315 pounds and was sold at 20 cents a pound.

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Sold L. N. Marsden, Parowan, Utah, in 1923, for \$1000.00

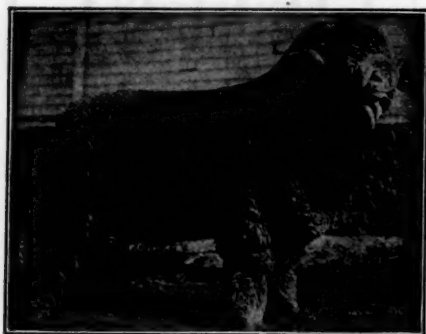
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One of My Stud Rams

RAUP'S —Ohio— RAMBOUILLETS

I offer at this time:

30 rams two years old this spring. 30 ewes, the same age, bred to lamb in the spring. 50 older ewes.



CHANDLER P. RAUP
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO
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300 Yearling Rams, eligible to registration, and over half polled.
300 Registered Yearling Ewes.
4 Registered Percheron Stallions.

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My Rambouillets are large, smooth and well covered with heavy fleeces of long white wool. They are bred in a high, dry country and are very hardy. I have 2000 one and two-year-old rams for this season. If you visit California, call and see my flocks. My prices are reasonable and my rams will suit the range country.

CHAS. A. KIMBLE
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peach Twigs and Scientific Planning

THE PEACH TWIG dips downward, so many believe, when held over underground water supplies. So firm is the faith of some people in its supposed infallibility that they never undertake the labor and expense of digging a well without making a test for hidden water with this natural divining rod.

In preparing for the growth of telephone facilities to meet future demands, there is no peach-twig substitute for foresight. All expenditures of labor and money must be based on scientific planning. Careful studies must be made of present and future conditions in the locality to be served.

One of the vital phases of the Bell System's task of providing America with a nation-wide universal service is that of foreseeing and providing for the future needs of the nation.



The Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Co.